

Dec 28/98



1998 WINNER
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The Didsbury

REVIEW

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The Didsbury

REVIEW

Volume 12 Number 36

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Pilot program will fly in Didsbury

By Ceilidh McClurg

Didsbury will be the site of a new pilot program to deal with children in the school system with behavioural problems.

Assistant superintendent, Bill Chalmers, says he is excited about what he calls a "multi-faceted and blended program" that is a step towards coordinating all the agencies that need to be involved with these types of children.

After a series of meetings and planning sessions, first initiated by former assistant superintendent, Warren Phillips, the school board, the health regions, Child and Family Services, Mental Health, and the department of Justice, the pilot project is ready to take flight.

Chalmers says it is an effort

to make sure the right hand knows what the left hand is doing with these children.

"With all of the agencies participating, it is trying to bring them all together instead of piece-mealing it together," says Chalmers. It is a more coordinated approach, he adds.

"The whole purpose is the reintegration back into the traditional school setting."

--Assistant Supt. Bill Chalmers

and Cremona area who fall into the criteria of having behavioural problems.

After the children are identified, they will be put into the program which will be located within one of the Didsbury Schools with a teacher with a strong background in dealing with special needs students and behavioural problems. A teacher's assistant will also be

put into place within the small class.

Although the school board will fund the majority of the program, paying for the teachers and the space within the school, Chalmers says it was very important to include the other agencies to make the program a whole.

This is because it will use some of the already existing resources at these other agencies, like counsellors, and supplies to create a wholistic approach to educating these students. So, besides teaching kids the curriculum, they will also be teaching them self-esteem, coping skills, and how to take responsibility.

"The whole purpose is the reintegration back into the traditional school setting," says Chalmers.

He adds that the reason the program is to be set up within an existing school, instead of outside, is that they don't want these children to be stigmatized.

The behaviour program will be voluntary and a very large component of the success is the involvement of the parents, says Chalmers. They must participate both during

the day, and after the school day to make all the teaching work.

"So far we've had excellent support for the program," says Chalmers. This includes all of the supporting agencies and the schools themselves.

"The idea is that we work together to develop a very specific, individual program for each youngster," he says.

Local Westglen principal, Phil Corning, has also been involved in the set up of service for children with chronic behaviour problems.

It is hoped the service for children with chronic behaviour problems will be in place for February, but it won't stop there. A very in depth evaluation will be done of the program which will encompass the students, the parents, and the teachers. Then, if all looks like it has come together successfully, Chalmers says he will come back to the Chinook's Edge School board for further funding to set up more programs.

"We'd like to see the program expand to Innisfail to serve the central region and one in Sylvan Lake to serve that area," says Chalmers.

Furby fever in Didsbury for Christmas cause



By Ceilidh McClurg

Furby Fever, as some have called it, has hit Didsbury just in time for the Christmas rush and just in time to help out a good cause.

CountrySide Florist managed to get one of the sought after critters just last Friday afternoon after a phone call from someone offering it for sale.

The store made the purchase and has decided that they will run a silent auction to get the highest price, with all proceeds being donated to the

Christmas Helpers Program.

Furby is an interactive toy that can be taught to speak and do tricks. It usually retails for about \$40, however, this Christmas a certain madness has erupted over the toy. Those in possession have been auctioning Furby off for as much as \$2100 in recent days.

Here in Didsbury bids will start at \$200, and all you have to do to get your hands on the highly demanded interactive toy is head to CountrySide on Main Street and put in your bid.

Bids will close at 4 p.m. on Dec. 24, and the highest bidder will have the coveted creature under their Christmas tree in time for the magic of Christmas morning.

1st Didsbury Venturers/Rover

would like to thank all participants and supporters of the 3rd Annual Santa Claus Parade.



A special thank you to our sponsors the Didsbury Volunteer Fire Department who helped make it possible

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The next step taken on the issue of whistle cessation

By Ceilidh McClurg

Ever laid in bed, just about to doze into a peaceful night of slumber, and then the rumble begins to shake you and soon the jarring and alarming sound of the Canadian Pacific Railway whistle rips you out of your sleep.

Town of Didsbury officials continue to seek out the possibility of ceasing the train whistle as the locomotives pass through town.

After many requests by residents and review by the Operational Services Committee, town council made the decision last July to pass a resolution that the whistle be stopped at the crossings where there are gates, at 15 Ave. and 20 Ave.

However, since the gates on 20 Ave. still have not been com-

pleted, the request for that crossing has been postponed.

The resolution, made by council, was forwarded to the Manager of Community and Regulatory Affairs of C.P. Rail.

At the last council meeting, a response was brought forward by C.P. via a letter to the town.

The letter indicated that they would agree to forward a request to Transport Canada to inspect the crossings to ensure they meet all safety criteria.

If the gates pass the inspection, the town must obtain liability insurance in case of any accident that might occur. This insurance is expected to cost about \$1200 per crossing, which would be shared on a 50/50 basis with C.P. Rail at a cost of \$600 per crossing to the town.

However, Wes Yeoman, di-

rector of operational services, clarifies that the train engineers may only discontinue the whistle at the crossings equipped with gates. Because the engineers, by law, must blow the whistle within a certain number of kilometres of an un-gated crossing, there will still be sound within town limits because there is an un-gated crossing just south of town, and another just north on the bypass road.

Because council has already made the recommendation to C.P. and has passed a resolution, the letter from C.P. was accepted as information only. The town will continue to wait until all of the necessary paperwork and processes have been completed and the people of Didsbury get a peaceful sleep.

REALLY WRAPPING

Rachelle Poliquin, 7, is busy wrapping gifts for the Santa's Helpers program in the basement of the Zion Evangelical Missionary Church. There was a good turn out for the wrapping session Saturday afternoon. Santa's Helpers hand out food hampers to those who need an extra helping hand during this season.



Carstairs school project has seen its demise

By Ceilidh McClurg

The Carstairs school project has taken its last breath, and now lays dead after a hard fought fight by members of the Carstairs Futures Committee.

Just 15 days before the deadline set by the former school board in May for the futures Committee to come up with the shortfall to build a new school, the board rescinded their support.

During a special meeting held last Wednesday, Mountain View County, who has been reluctant to commit anything to the project addressed the board. The reeve suggested that they would take a caveat (a lien) against the existing High Sutherland school, and would give the school board \$250,000, which would be earmarked for the new school project.

However, board chair, Roy

Brassard said that their legal counsel strongly advised against such a move because it would tie the school board's hands in terms of the future of that property.

Besides, says Brassard, "It would have been a last minute, panic decision, made at the eleventh hour and that is not a good way to make a decision."

But, it was the discussion that came out of that meeting be-

tween the school board and the county resulted in the plug being pulled on the entire project.

"There seemed to be a whole bunch of things that didn't seem to be right," said Brassard the following day.

Discussion revolved around the real viability of the new school, which was planned to house grades ten through 12.

Brassard reported that a fellow trustee on the board said that they'd already bent so many rules to make the project work that maybe they should really settle down and do a complete re-evaluation because it didn't seem to be in the best interest of all of the students.

The rules that were bent was when the provincial Department of Education agreed to roll over the funds from modernization to capital, which had never been done before. Also, because the money was never intended for a new school, there was no funds for a gymnasium and the board agreed to use Building Quality and Restoration Program funds (BQRP) which weren't meant for projects like this one.

Brassard added, "There has been a great deal of apprehension from the Department of Education from the stand point on how we were doing this."

It was during that re-evaluation that trustees said they were worried that the modernization funds that had been rolled into a capital fund, would be lost on the new school, which would only house one third of the population at Hugh Sutherland, while the remaining two thirds would remain in the dilapidated old school for what could have been as long as 10 more years.

They also talked about having to bus the high school students back to the old school anyway for them to take part in programs such as Industrial Arts or Band, adding extra cost to the school and the board for transportation.

According to the press release sent out by Chinook's Edge after the meeting, "There were other concerns expressed but it

was generally felt that the project would be better served if delayed until such time as the entire school could be relocated."

Therefore, in a motion put forward by Dr. Doug Campbell, the trustee for the Delburne/Elnora area, to rescind the motion made in May that declared support in principle for the project pending the shortfall of funds (about \$650,000) being raised before the deadline of Dec. 31.

Although representatives of the board insist it was not a recorded vote, Brassard will only say, "It was close."

This decision comes on the heels of the school board meeting two weeks ago when superintendent, Herb Fader, spoke out for the first time against the Futures Committee project. Fader had said that because of the way capital funds are now handed down by the province, in a smaller lump sum each year instead of through the process of application, the whole division would suffer in the long term if the project went ahead. Fader said that the board would have to save all of their capital funds for more than ten years to complete phase two of the project, which would have moved the younger kids to a new facility. During that time, the other schools in the jurisdiction would be losing their opportunity to repair some major problems.

The funds that had been allocated to phase one of the new school, will be rolled back into modernization of the existing Hugh Sutherland School. That amount is about \$2.5 million.

Brassard says he thinks this is the best choice in the long run.

"It should make a difference in that school," he says.

Then, he adds, "It's really unfortunate. But, I do really appreciate the interest that put into a project designed to benefit the children of the area.... We need to refocus and we need to work towards a day that we can transfer the entire school."

Committee reacts to decision

By Ceilidh McClurg

The chairman of the Carstairs Futures Committee says the decision by the school board caught him by surprise.

"My reaction? I guess shock and disgust," says Ken Smith.

He says he finds it hard to understand why the board would pull the plug on the project at such a late stage, and especially after the previous board approved it in principle.

"I find it almost immoral, but it is definitely not nice," says Smith.

He believes that as of the Dec. 31 deadline, the committee would have been able to come up with the shortfall that they needed to raise to make the first phase of the new school a reality.

However, this would have included the caveat on the existing High Sutherland School from the county of \$250,000.

The other thing that upsets Smith was that no one from the Futures Committee was invited to the meeting where the decision was made. He believes that they may have made an uninformed decision because there was no one there to answer questions raised.

Smith says last week when he heard Herb Fader's comments regarding his concerns about the school project, he was also shocked, but truly believed that there could have been a better way of dealing with those concerns, and the concerns of the trustees, other than to pull the plug at the last minute.

The approximate \$2.5 million that had been approved to be taken out of modernization and into the capital of the new school, will now be rolled back into modernization at Hugh Sutherland.

Smith can only say, "Why are they throwing good money into here (Hugh Sutherland) when it could be spent more wisely."

The grand scheme of the Futures Committee was to build the school in two phases, but to also include in the multi-purpose complex an arena, a curling rink, and a gymnasium that could be used by the public and the students alike.

A letter is currently being drafted to be sent to all of those businesses and individuals who donated cash or in-kind guaranteed services, informing them of the decision and informing them that their money may be returned to them immediately, or they can choose to have the funds redirected into the possible new arena that is due sometime in the community's future. Smith also says that some of the donors may also choose to have their money put towards the modernization, to make those modernizations even better.

"The big picture is that there is still kids in the community, so let's make the best of a bad situation," says Smith.

But, through the two years of work put in by the community and the Futures Committee, Smith says there has been at least one accomplishment that has come out of the effort, despite the fact that the school has seen its demise. That has been the rallying of the community and the businesses who have come together not only for a cause, but also in terms of awareness of the issues at Hugh Sutherland.

"There's a real rallying point that has come out of this."

EDITORIAL/ OPINIONS

The end of the road



Nicole
SMITH

1998 has come and gone and with the new year approaching, brings the end of my year here at the Didsbury Review.

I moved here last January with many anxieties and fears about a new town, new people and a new job.

Within the first week I knew I'd be happy here. I got phone calls from Didsburians welcoming me to their town, including one from Marg Weaver who, over this past

year, has become a sort of surrogate grandmother to me, along with her husband Art.

As the year progressed I met many new faces, experienced new things and made many friends. I also fell in love. In love with this small, quaint town with the perfect location and the biggest-hearted people I've ever had the privilege to meet.

Now, as I am sitting here writing my last editorial for the Review, I am reflecting on the highs and lows that 1998 has brought my way. It's been one of the worst years of my life, but also one of the best. It's funny how life works like that.

I give thanks for this past year. Thanks that things could have been a lot worse, but that they weren't. Thanks to the generosity of this community. Thanks for family and friends.

With 1999 almost beginning, I again expect many changes. I return to Mount Royal College in Calgary in January to complete my degree in journalism. It's been a long haul and I'm glad it's almost over.

In September, I will be attending university to pursue an Education degree. I've come to the realization that journalism just isn't for me. I'd rather make a lasting impression on young minds, than a quick reaction on readers faces. Hopefully it's something I will be happy doing.

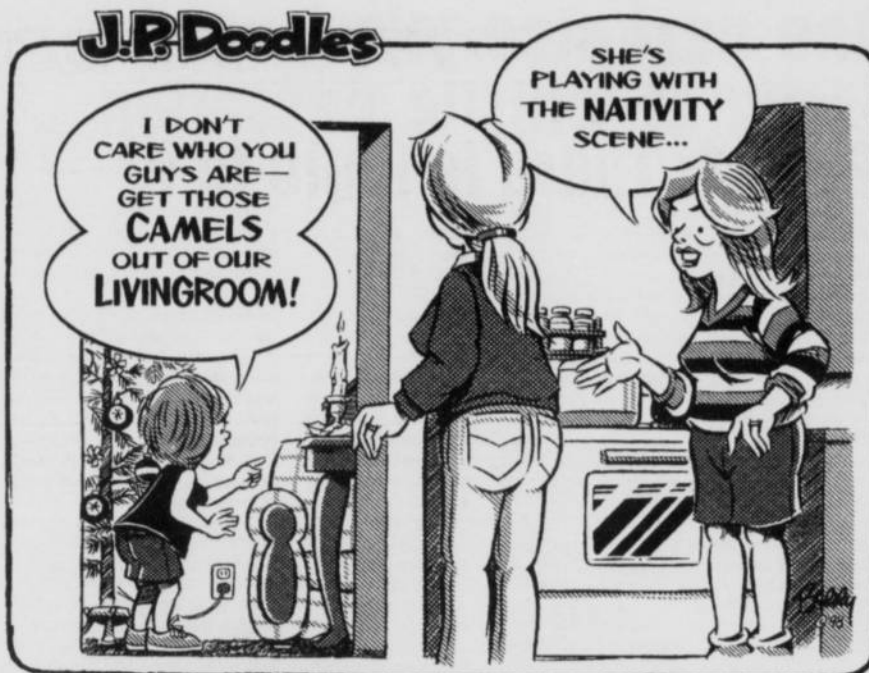
Although I am leaving my position here as a reporter, I can't bear to leave this town. I will continue living here and am planning on commuting to Calgary each day. I can only let one thing go at a time.

To my co-workers, I give many thanks. Thank you for accepting me as one of your own. Thank you for putting up with my antics. Thank you for helping me through this last year. Thank you for being such dear friends.

And to the community, thank you for accepting this little blonde-haired girl with BC plates on her car as a fellow Didsburian. You'll never know the high standard of which I hold you all in my heart.

Finally, to Erin Wilson, who will be taking over my position, I say good luck. I hope that your experience here in Didsbury will be as fulfilling and enjoyable as mine has been.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas, and only hope that your reflections on the past year can be as happy as mine. The best to all in 1999.



A fond hello from the newest face in Didsbury

First things, first. I must admit that I have lived in the city for the past 17 years, Calgary to be exact. But after only one week in Didsbury I can see why more and more people are deciding to

commute. I on the other hand have decided to move to the community full-time while I work at the Didsbury Review from January to April.

I haven't worked at a newspaper full-time before and I'm hoping to learn as much as possible.

I will be taking over the Faces page from Nicole Smith, who I am sure will be missed by all. I guess I'm going to have to work a little harder to make the page look and sound as good as it has been for the past year.

If you have any ideas for the

Faces Page please don't hesitate to call me or to come in and meet me in person at the office. I don't know any familiar faces yet beyond the Review office.

From my first impressions, I am sure that I will be having a great time in your community as I complete my work-term at the Review. It will be nice to be visible in the community instead of being one out of 800,000 nameless faces, like I'm used to.

Over the past three years I have attended Mount Royal College in their applied-degree program, majoring in journalism. I also spent two years at the University of Calgary majoring in political science, needless to say I enjoy a good political debate.

I have had many great oppor-

tunities for work since I entered the program, including this one, and a stint at Country Music Television. Although I never did learn how to two-step, so if you see my slam-dancing out there on the dance floor stop me and try and teach me, please!

Also if there are any skiers out there, I love to ski and don't mind kicking in some gas money for the trip to the hill. I'm an avid runner and cyclist as well and I am looking forward to the spring when I can enjoy this fabulous Prairie landscape. It will be quite the change from the smog and crazy drivers that I'm used to.

I'm running out of pertinent or interesting information about myself so I will end on a happy note.

Merry Christmas to everyone! I hope the holidays are a happy and special time for everyone as we spend time with our friends and family. See you in the New Year!



Erin
WILSON

Merry Christmas
everyone, from the
Staff at the
Didsbury Review

Wonderings of
the heart

By Margaret Fradley

There is a story told of a young child, who was somewhat 'slower' than the other children in his class, who begged to be allowed to take part in the play his class was presenting at Christmas. It was to be "The Christmas Story."

At first his teacher thought he might perhaps be a shepherd, but then decided he could play the part of the innkeeper. Surely he could remember the lines, "Sorry, there is no room in the inn."

The class practised faithfully. The night they had all been waiting for finally arrived. All the parents and friends were present. The little boy - innkeeper could hardly contain himself.

The play proceeded. There was a rap at the door of the inn. The boy came to the door saying, "Sorry, there is no room in this inn." As Joseph explained how important it was to have a place for him and his wife to stay, again the child repeated, "Sorry, there is no room."

Then Joseph and his wife turned to leave the inn, the sensitive little boy, with great emotion in his voice called out, much to the dismay of the teacher and his classmates, "Come back Mary and Joseph, you can have my room."

Although totally unexpected, the parents and others who were present never forgot the words of the young boy.

We also need to search our hearts and ask ourselves the question, "Is there room in the inn of our hearts for this Jesus, whose birth we celebrate?"



The Didsbury

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EDITORIAL/OPINIONS

Bill 21: There is logic to it

This November, the Second Session of the 24th Legislature saw debate continue on several pieces of health related legislation, including Bill 21, the *Alberta Health Care Insurance Amendment Act*. This bill clearly sets out the requirements and process for Alberta physicians wishing to opt-out of the publicly funded health system. Another significant protection in this bill relates to the charging of fees as a condition for receiving an insured service and to prevent non-physicians from charging additional fees for insured services.



**Richard
MARZ**
MLA

Opting-out allows physicians to charge patients directly and to charge more for services than the standard fee schedule. Patients using the services of an opted-out physician cannot be reimbursed by the public system for any fees paid to an opted-out physician.

Our government introduced Bill 21, the *Alberta Health Care*

Insurance Amendment Act, to help ensure that all Albertans have access to medically necessary physician services within the publicly funded health system, and to ensure clear and consistent guidelines for physicians choosing to opt-out. This bill also sets out clear protection against over-billing on insured services and prevents a non-physician from charging facility fees for insured services.

Bill 21 requires the physician to follow a clear set of directions in order to opt-out of the public system. An example of this is seen when a physician who has chosen to opt-out of the publicly funded health system must give the Minister of Health 180 days notice to do so. Also, this notice must be posted in the physician's office as well as through a notice in the local newspaper. This procedure will allow for the Minister of Health and Albertans to plan accordingly in the event that a physi-

cian wishes to leave the public system.

One of the proposed amendments removes the requirement for the Minister of Health to give formal approval to any physician wishing to opt-out. However, the College of Physicians and Surgeons will still carry out their mandate of ensuring appropriate physician behaviour and maintaining appropriate access to publicly funded physician services.

Another source of protection for Albertans in this Bill relates to the charging of fees. This Bill clearly makes it an offence for any opted-out physician to extra-bill for an insured service or from charging a fee as a condition of receiving an insured service.

It is our government's responsibility to provide health services, including medically necessary physician services for all Albertans. Bill 21 will help ensure that proper physician resource planning is successfully achieved in Alberta and that a physician's opting-out does not seriously impact on the availability of health services within the public system.

A Christmas Bride

By Wallace Brower

He'd worked for meagre grub and pay,
On a foothills cattle ranch.
The only thing that kept him there,
Was a cowgirl they called Blanch.
She was a beautiful Christian girl,
And Fred was a Christian too.
But now she was gone to Europe,
So what was a feller to do?

Now she was gone, he got homesick,
He hadn't seen his mother for years,
He'd left when his dad and he quarrelled,
Leaving his loving mother in tears.
He had many miles to ride that day,
In the storm of sleet and snow.
And now he'd lost the homeward trail,
And it was twenty below.

Christmas was just two weeks ahead,
And the storm was holding him back.
But all at once he saw a light,
Coming from a ranchers' shack.
The rancher took the horse to the barn,
Then took the cowboy inside;
Fed him hot soup, and put him to bed,
Who was chilled from his cold ride.

He woke with a start when he saw her,
Standing beside his warm bed.
He thought for sure he was dreaming,
Until she asked, "Is that you, Fred?"
"Oh, yes," he said, "Is that you Blanch?"
"Are you really here my dear,
Or am I having another false dream,
And thinking that you are here?"

"No," she said, "It's me alright Fred,
I didn't go to Europe you see,
God led me home to my lonesome dad,
Who was pining away for me."
"Oh, Blanch, that's why I'm here right now,
When you left my heart left too,
So I am on my way back home,
To try and start life anew."

"I didn't know you cared for me Fred,
You never, ever told me so."
"Oh I was just a dumb fool, Blanch,
More than you ever know."
"Blanch, do you love me at all?"
"Yes, Fred you know that I do."
"Then will you marry me this Christmas,
And start our lives anew?"

"Oh yes my dear, but where will we live?"
"That's easy," said Blanch's dad,
"The minute I set my eyes on him,
I knew he was a faithful lad.
You too can take over the ranch,
You see, Fred's folks I know,
For they sheltered me
one Christmas Eve,
When it was 30 below."

It was a beautiful
wedding day,
No clouds in West
or East.

So after the vows
were taken,
They sat down to a
prime rib feast.
Well that was many
years ago,
They are proud
grandparents now too.
So count now their
many blessings
For bringing them
safely through.



Wild Rose Report: For the sake of the children

On Wednesday of last week the Special Joint Committee on Child Custody and Access released their report "For the Sake of the Children". The Committee spent nearly ten months travelling across Canada listening to testimony from every group possible who desired to contribute. The testimony was varied and tendered without favouritism.

The recommendations will now be reviewed by the Minister of Justice, who must respond with a discussion paper within 150 days. It will be up to the Liberal government to decide whether or not to pursue the issue thereafter, and perhaps introduce legislation to change the Divorce Act. However, it is also up to you as a constituent and concerned Canadian to press the Minister to act promptly and comprehensively.

The Report included 48 recommendations, including replacing the terms "custody" and "access" with "shared parenting". Parents would be required to create a parenting plan as a part of divorce, pre-

ferring both parents to have access to records from schools, doctors and hospitals. The general premise of the Report centres around providing what is in the best interests of the children, and suggests that the actual meanings of "best interest" be written into the Act.

Reform is supportive of the themes of the Report as far as they go, as they are significant improvements to the general operation of the Divorce Act. However, in the Dissenting Opinion, Reform outlined issues that should have been included in the main Report.

Briefly, these additional recommendations are:

Parenting plans and maintenance payments should only apply to "children" and not "young adults".

Grandparents should not have to first seek permission of the Court, if they choose to file their own Court action for the making of a parenting plan.

Provincial prosecutors should exercise greater responsibility in enforcing deliberate false accusations of abuse or neglect.

Provincial governments should review their definitions

of "child at risk" in child protection law.

Under "Child Support Guidelines", stronger language is needed to clearly define the principle of "ability to pay versus demonstrated need".

Parent - child contact terms to be as rigorously enforced as child maintenance terms.

The operations of the Divorce Act, and family law in general do not appear to be working very well, consequently the Special Joint Committee was struck nearly a year ago. The federal Divorce Act is an important symbol for the legal rules of all aspects of family law in the country. Parents might divorce each other but they do not divorce their children. Reformers intent to fight for the rights of the child and the preservation of the family unit. The Minister of Justice has an obligation to not only report back to Parliament but to move forward with responsible and fair legislation.

If any constituent requires further information on the Report, it is available at the Parliamentary Web Site (www.par.gc.ca) or if you wish to obtain a bound copy please contact my office.



**Myron
THOMPSON**

EDITORIAL/OPINIONS

Farm-aid deal short on details

By Myron Thompson

Farmers are in for a tough holiday season with last week's announced farm aid package. Agriculture Minister Lyle Vancilief announced \$900 million in federal funding over two years, but he has made no announcement on how or when the money will be delivered. The Minister wants a 60% federal-40% provincial funding split, yet not all provinces are on board. Even more frightening is the fact that the government has no plan to address the root causes of the crises. Reform believes that apart from an emergency bail out, the government must address the problems of high subsidies abroad and high taxes at home.

Emergency aid is only a short term solution. A long term solution is needed to bring down our domestic taxes and eliminate international subsidies, which are killing trade.

My only hope is that this is the first step down a long road towards a strong, independent agriculture industry. It is unfortunate that it has taken this government so long to realize the seriousness of the problem. Reform will continue to pressure this government to put long term solutions in place.

A Meaningful Christmas

By Wallace Brouwer

If we look back to years gone by,
We who are now past sixty,
We think of those teenage years,
When we thought we were nifty.
We didn't have a problem then,
Deciding what we would wear,
We only had one Sunday suit,
That was pressed often with care.

Yet, Christmas was a special time,
Of concerts in a one room school.
For every teacher had a program,
Back then that was the rule.
We all took part in Christmas plays,
Or had a Christmas recitation.
Then after, Santa would come laughing in,
Shaking hands with the congregation.

Then oranges, apples and popcorn balls,
Where handed out to everyone.
If we were good, a little toy,
Was given to each daughter and son.
Yes, we had plays of Jesus' birth,
When in Bethlehem, He was born,
In a lovely stable drear,
On that cold December morn.

The angels did His birth announce,
To the shepherd that blessed night.
And the star of Bethlehem,
Never shone so pure and bright.
We can't recapture those wonderful years,
So we just reminisce and dream,
Of driving to the Christmas concert,
In a bobsleigh with a lively team.

So when Christmas day did arrive,
A turkey with dressing inside,
Was roasted in the woodstone stove,
With brown gravy and sauce beside.
Mashed potatoes and cranberry sauce,
Made up the first course you know,
Then came mince pies and whipping cream,
Yes, dinner was quite a show.

Now I look back and wonder why,
Those years so quickly sped;
When we were young and happy,
With only a team and a sled.
Those days are past but fond memories,
Oh, mothers and dads do stay,
When life was a lot more simple,
But more meaningful on Christmas day.

Results are in! Town Hall meetings bring answers

I have finished holding 14 informational town hall meetings around my constituency. Although I was disappointed at some of the turn outs, all in all they were a success.

I would also like to acknowledge personnel from the Bank of Montreal and the CIBC, who took time out of their busy schedules, to explain the implications of bank mergers to those who attended. In most areas, this was the main topic of discussion, with a lively debate ensuing.

The questionnaires given out to all attendees have been tallied with the results as follows:

5% thought the Agricultural safety nets were effectively addressing the needs of farmers, while 62% thought they were

not and 33% were undecided.

25% of those asked thought Marijuana should be legalized but 60% said no to legalization, with 15% undecided.

A whopping 71% said yes to mandatory mediation for divorcing couples engaged in child custody disputes, and only 8% thought it was a bad idea, and 21% were unsure.

42% agreed with the use of lethal weapons for self-defence purpose, but 40% thought the use of pepper spray, or other incapacitating weapons should be used. 9% thought personal alarms etc. would be effective for self-defence, and 9% were undecided.

34% said yes to an increase

of gasoline by 1 cent/litre in order to decrease air pollution, through sulphur level reduction, but 47% said no to the change. 19% were unsure.

72% of the attendees agreed with the Reform Party's United Alternative campaign, and 12% did not, with 16% undecided.

A huge 79% support the Province's appeal of the Gun Control Bill C-68. Only 15% did not agree with this initiative, with 6% unsure.

I spoke to Grade 12 students at Bert Church High School in Airdrie, and also gave them the questionnaire to complete. Their answers corresponded with the town hall participants, with one exception. Surprisingly, 42% agreed that gasoline should be increased by 1 cent/litre to try to save the environment. Maybe our young adults are more conscientious and more aware than their older counter-parts give them credit for.



Myron THOMPSON

Let's talk taxes: Is Alberta headed for a deficit?

By Mark Milke, Provincial Director of Canadian Taxpayers Federation

Alberta has been deficit-free for almost five years now but the lucky streak could soon end. High gas prices - which kept the province's total energy tax take from tanking due to the low oil price - are around the US \$1.85 mark, down from a 52-week high of US \$2.69. As every Albertan knows, oil prices hit are skidding. They hit a low of \$10.72 per barrel recently.

That means the province will take in less crude oil royalties than originally forecast. Thanks to cautious forecasts, the province will grab more revenue from natural gas royalties than first expected, but overall the province will only squeak through this fiscal year with a \$250 million surplus.

That is substantially down from the \$2.6 billion surplus it recorded in 1997-98. There is some wiggle room - the province budgets for a \$420 million

'cushion' in case revenues really go into the tank - but in a still volatile resource-based economy, that's pocket change for a taxi ride to international money lenders if the economy sours.

But what about next year? If Mr. Klein and Co. do not get a grip on the requests from the bureaucracy, the increased provincial spending incurred since 1996 has the potential to put Alberta on a collision course with deficits. Yes - Alberta forbids deficits by law - which is why politicians and bureaucrats under the dome better think now about the bureaucracy's Christmas requests.

The big picture is this: Total provincial revenues were \$15.6 billion three years ago. That is forecast to be \$16.5 billion this fiscal year. Meanwhile, program spending has gone from \$12.9 billion in 1995-96, to an expected \$14.5 billion in 1998-99.

Excluding interest on the debt, program spending is up

\$1.6 billion from where it was three years ago. (The difference between what the province will take in - \$16.5 billion, and what it will spend on programs - \$14.5 billion, is interest on the debt, the fiscal cushion, the surplus, and pocket change for book-keeping.)

And that expected \$14.5 billion is already \$600 million over what Treasurer Stockwell Day said it would be on budget day in February. And the fiscal year does not end until next March - plenty of time for more spending. While short-term boosts in energy revenues over the last several years allowed the province huge surpluses to pay down a good chunk of the provincial debt, revenues and spending are edging perilously close to each other.

There is no question that taxpayers have done much to provide the government with lots of room. Personal income tax revenues jumped from almost \$3.2 billion in fiscal year

1996 to an expected \$4.5 billion to the end of this fiscal year (March 1999). That's a jump of \$1.3 billion in three years. Higher personal income tax revenues - from a booming economy and more people living and working under Alberta - contributed to the boost in provincial personal tax take.

Yet, as pointed out before, the province's personal tax take

over the past decade also increased due to 'bracket creep.' That's where tax brackets not indexed for inflation send many Albertans into higher and punishing tax brackets once they earn a little bit more. Taxpayers are sending lots of money to the province. And the bureaucrats and politicians seem intent on spending as much of it as possible.

Letters are welcome

Your comment on content or issues of interest to members of our community are welcome. All letters must be signed, (signature to be printed), include a phone number and address. All letters may be edited for brevity, clarity and libel.

SEND TO: THE DIDSBURY REVIEW

Box 760

Didsbury, AB, T0M0W0

Fax: 335-8143

E-mail: myreview@ccinet.ab.ca

FROM THE MAILBAG

Notes from Nigeria

Dan and Janet Snyder are Didsburians who are missionaries in Nigeria. They are working at a school in Jos, Nigeria for the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada, and Dan is teaching math and English, while Janet runs the library for the whole school. Both have been in the country periodically doing the mission work since the late 70s. The couple met while working in Nigeria and married in December 1995. Their latest excursion set out on May 15 this year and they will return to Didsbury in May of 2000 for a three month furlough. They will return to Nigeria and will remain there until 2006. The Snyders send weekly letters to their family telling about their day to day experiences, and we at the Review believe it will be of interest to our readers.

Saturday, Dec. 12 Dear friends,

The last full week of classes is done, and with only two and a half days of school left, many of us are looking forward to the Christmas break. This week there were two concerts, the exams began, and the weather dramatically changed. Also, Janet's discipleship girls made cookies for their teachers, and the Board of Governors met to approve the budget and talk about staffing for next year.



Thursday all the hostels gathered for a hot lunch. Usually half come on Wednesday and the other half on Thursday. Every hostel made the same main dish and brought a salad and dessert. All the food was put together on two large tables and we had a joint meal with a chance to visit with those who eat with other hostels. Dan tried the main dish from three different pans and even though each hostel had the same recipe each pan had it's own distinct taste. Each cook added or subtracted to create slightly different end results. But all of it was great and we enjoyed the time to visit. Lunch time was just too short.

That evening the Middle School students displayed some of their musical abilities, singing, playing in the band, playing handbells, and signing (as to hearing impaired) along with a song. It was all very entertaining and a good experience for those involved. We were impressed by the professionalism of the new music teacher, who expects good things from the students and doesn't settle for less. It was also good to see some different aspects of the students. For example, one of the Grade 6 boys who has a very difficult time concentrating and staying on task played several handbells songs, counting time and keeping his place without making any noticeable mistakes. Several Grade 8 girls and boys who wear jeans or shorts to school everyday looked very attractive, dressed up, and behaved quite differently because they were dressed up.

Friday morning we awoke to the smell and taste of dirt. Outside it was like a thick fog had rolled in but the particles were not moisture but dust. Harmattan had arrived. It is the cool, dust-laden breeze that blows from the Sahara Desert. A fine dust covers everything. We feel like we are breathing and eating dirt. It is possible to dust the house in the morning and return in the afternoon to find enough dust on the furniture to write our name. We feel dirty all the time, a constant need to wash our hands and face. The only positive aspect of it is that it is cooler outside. This is the first serious dust that we've had since we returned in May, and we hope that it won't last too long. Already everything in the house has a visible coat of dust, and we have company coming tomorrow. We don't want to clean too soon though or we will just have to do it again.

The high school choir and band put on their Christmas concert on Friday evening. The band is one of the smallest that we have ever had. In fact, you could hardly call it band: two trombones, two trumpets and drums. So, as the director said, they were really playing solos most of the time. They did quite a good job. Christmas carols played on trumpets and trombones really quite a festive sound. The choir sang most of their songs a cappella and it was beautiful. The sound that the music teacher was able to get out of those students was fantastic. He worked them hard but the comments we heard from the students were all positive. They like him and liked the music he chose. They also like the idea of doing a concert where they are proud of the end result. Often in the past we would go to the concerts wanting to be there to support the students and the other staff, but also hoping that it would not be very long. This concert was too short. We would have enjoyed having more.

Sincerely,
Dan and Janet Snyder

The irony of condemnation

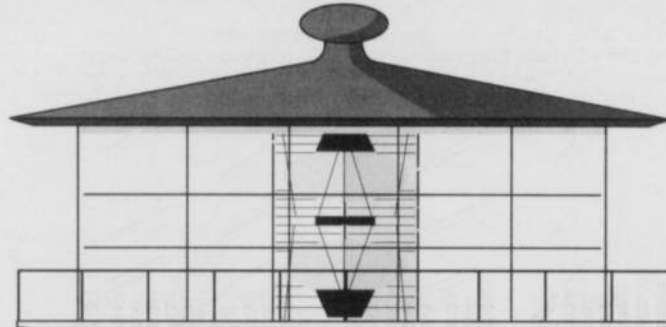
Dear Editor,

Consider that we and other countries impose sanctions and send our troops to intervene when human rights are threatened and violated else-

where. Yet in North America thousands upon thousands of people are being "legally" murdered through abortions. What right do we have to go to other countries when we allow the

killing of the most defenceless of all people to go on in our own countries.

Sincerely,
Erhard Hermann
Didsbury



"I am the Light of the world. The person who follows me will never live in darkness. He will have the light that gives life." John 8:12

I am sure that many of us are familiar with events surrounding the birth of Christ. The shepherds in the fields, the angel's glorious announcement of the Saviour's birth. We are familiar with the Gospel writer Luke's statement that Jesus' birth took place in a manger because there was no room for Mary and Joseph and baby at the inn in Bethlehem. I wonder if our experience of Christmas has really differed that much. Our calendars are full, we cram ourselves around the Christmas table with family and friends, we stuff ourselves until there is no more room. We may even struggle to find enough room and beds for visiting family or friends. "No more room!" We want to say.

But there is a place this Christmas which has room for you. It is your heavenly Father's house. In His living room He gathers His family, the lonely and downcast in spirit, the over stressed, the meek. Everyone receives the Father's welcome.



In His kitchen He feeds and nourishes those whose lives seem empty and meaningless. And in His presence they are filled with His love and peace and contentment. In the upper room He comforts those who are sick, and those for whom death draws near. In God's house there is room enough for all.

There is room enough for you. The community at Redeemer Lutheran Church invites you to come home for Christmas. Join us in our Father's house. Join us in the quiet contemplation of our Savior's birth. Join us in the songs of praise and in the fellowship of God's people.

There still is room! There is a place prepared for you where the love of your heavenly Father, the redeeming presence of your Saviour, Jesus, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit await you. Really! There still is room for you in God's house!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Rob

Welcome Home

FROM THE MAILBAG

Misinformation concerning debated Bill 37

Dear Editor,

There has been considerable discussion and misinformation concerning Bill 37, the Health Status Amendment Act, and I felt that it is important to provide you with some further clarification on this Bill.

This Bill was developed in response to the concerns of Albertans regarding the potential establishment of private treatment facilities and to provide further protection for Alberta's publicly funded health system.

A new amendment that will be introduced during the fall

session of the legislature will prohibit private treatment facilities from providing insured surgical services that are performed in public hospitals to any Canadian insured under a provincial health plan.

Bill 37 also provides the Minister of Health with the authority to say no or to restrict private facilities seeking to provide services outside of the public health system. Currently there is no legislation in place that would allow the government to prohibit or control the operation or existence of private treat-

ment facilities in Alberta. The responsibility now rests solely with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta.

Bill 37 places a second barrier in front of private health facilities seeking to provide services outside of the public health system. Currently there is no legislation in place that would allow the government to prohibit or control the operation or existence of private treatment facilities in Alberta. The responsibility now rests solely with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta.

Bill 37 places a second barrier in front of private health facilities seeking to provide uninsured services to persons not covered by the Canada Health Act by requiring them to receive both accreditation by the College and formal approval from the Minister of Health. Under Bill 37 even if the College accredited a private treatment facility, the Minister could still prohibit its establishment. The Minister could not even consider a proposal to provide such services unless accreditation was first given by the College.

Bill 37 will allow Alberta to have more control over privately funded treatment facilities than ever before. Most important however, it totally bans private hospitals from providing insured publicly funded services to persons covered under a provincial health plan. This is another step in our government's commitment to ensure that all Albertans continue to have access to quality publicly funded health services when they need them.

Sincerely,
Halvar C. Jonson, Minister

An open letter on finances

Dear Mr. Paul Martin,

The Canadian Farm Enterprise Network (CFEN) is writing to you today with a proposal that most importantly could save the Canadian taxpayer millions of dollars. Secondly, it would liberate the Western farm economy and its potential to create wealth. Thirdly, it would leave a greater amount of scarce aid dollars to help those farmers who feel they have become dependent upon the Federal government.

CFEN is proposing that each farmer in Western Canada be given the following option: Make a firm commitment to waive his or her right to any money under the farm aid program currently being discussed, plus any future ad hoc programs. In return for forfeiting their share of these programs, these farmers would receive the right to manage their property and their business outside the control of the Canadian Wheat Board. In other words, give farmers an opt out, allowing them to mill or market their own grain.

In this proposal CFEN suggests that the government use

the money that is turned back by farmers to either pay down the national debt, reduce taxes or redistribute it to farmers who do not elect to opt out.

Many farmers want to stand on their own two feet. Many who are suffering the current cash flow problems are convinced this situation could have been averted if they had enjoyed the flexibility, opportunities and price management tools that the open grain market offers. There are a great many farmers who have the courage of their convictions. They will give it serious thought and sign off the aid money in return for freedom and responsibility. It would take nothing away from their neighbours who prefer the Wheat Board to market their grain.

Ad hoc programs will not solve the long term problems of agriculture. Ottawa's CWB role of our grain makes it impossible to make contracts that protect us from price declines, or to seek out niche markets. Most of our money is withheld for over a year as we wait for an unknown pooled price. We cannot even form co-ops and mill our

own wheat, because of this stranglehold. This environment cannot foster anything but dependence, helplessness and despair.

This CFEN proposal gives farmers the dignity that comes with self-reliance, but also respects the wishes of those farmers who put their faith in the CWB. The proposal provides some much needed tax relief to the beleaguered Canadian taxpayer who is always being asked to bail out some sector that governments at the Federal or other levels have a grip over and have mismanaged.

We want you to take your hands off our small businesses and our lives. We can arrange our own affairs and we will never be back with our hands out for a special program. We will sign a binding contract to that effect.

Thank you for considering this proposal. We look forward to an early reply.

Sincerely,
Jim Pallister, farmer and
Curtis Sims, farmer from
Canadian Farm Enterprise
Network

Response to Minister

Dear Editor,

The Minister of Health has written a letter to the editor in defence of Bill 37, the Health Statutes Amendment Act, 1998. The Minister has said that a government amendment to the Bill will prohibit private treatment facilities from providing insured surgical services that are already performed in public hospitals to any Canadian insured under a provincial health plan.

What the Minister neglected to tell the people of Alberta is that his proposed amendment to Bill 37 will only protect those medical services which are included in a regulation. This means that the Minister will determine which surgical services will be allowed in private hospitals. This list has not even been developed yet. Further, by putting the list under a regulation, the Minister can remove protected services without any consultation or notice to the public.

If the government wanted to stop private hospitals in Alberta, they could have brought in clear legislation which would have banned them. Instead, the government has brought in complicated legislation that allows them to approve or reject these facilities. Given the history of the government on privatization, we believe that the motive is clear. This government wants to approve private, for profit hospitals in Alberta.

Private, for profit hospitals have proven to be more expensive, spending over twice as much as Canadian hospitals on administration. The United States spends nearly twice as much per person on health care under its private health care system and does not cover over 40 million residents. Some people suggest that we can not afford our Medicare system, the fact is, we can not afford the alternative.

Sincerely,
Gary Dickson, MLA
Alberta Liberal Health Critic

Grace period ends

Dear Editor,

On Dec. 1, the Government of Canada began implementation of the Firearms Act.

The key features of the law include:

- Safe storage and transportation rules;
- Licensing of all gun owners with a photo license;
- Registration of all guns with registration certificates issued on a plastic card.

To assist the firearm community in complying with these requirements, the government has planned transition or grace periods:

- The safe storage provisions have been in force since 1991. Nothing in the new law changes these requirements.

- The licensing period begins now and ends on Jan. 1, 2001. By that time, all gun owners will need either a valid FAC, or one of the two new licences-possession only or possession and acquisition (allowing you to acquire


more firearms). Licence applications are subject to background checks and other verifications to ensure that public safety is not compromised. The Canadian Firearm Safety Course is always a good idea. However, it is required only for acquisition licences.

- The registration period begins now and ends on Jan. 1, 2003. By that time all guns must be registered to their owners. The registry will become a valuable tool to help police track illegal firearms and firearms used in crimes, and it will help police enforce a variety of court orders. From that perspective of the gun owner, the possession of a registered card will provide proof of ownership.

The application forms can be obtained at all Canada Post offices across Canada or by calling 1-800-731-4000.

Yours sincerely,
A. Anne McLellan

Pictures published in the Review can be picked up at the Review office on a first come, first serve basis.

 <p>town of DIDSBURY</p> <p>Please visit our home page at www.town.didsbury.ab.ca</p>	<p>Town Office: 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. Shop Hours: 7:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. Landfill Site Hours: 1:00 P.M. - 4:45 P.M. Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat. Didsbury Aquatic Centre Schedule Memorial Complex & Aquatic Centre Library Hours: 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Tues. - Sat. Wed. 10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M. Lions Recycling Centre Main Street Project Office Rosebud Valley Campground</p>	<p>Phone # - 335-3391 Phone # - 335-8343 Phone # - 335-8653 Phone # - 335-7369 Phone # - 335-3142 Phone # - 335-8193 Phone # - 335-3265 Phone # - 335-8578</p>	<p>Council Meeting January 6, 1999 @ 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>INTERESTED IN STARTING A BUSINESS? For complete information package. Please Contact Evan Parliament, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER Town Office 335-3391 Fax 335-9794</p>
<p>Christmas Hours Closed</p> <p>Thursday, December 24 @ 2:00 p.m. Friday, December 25 Monday, December 28 Thursday, December 31 @ 3:00 p.m. Friday, January 1</p> <p>We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!</p>	<p>DIDSBURY AQUATIC CENTRE</p> <p>December "Holidays on the House" Featuring</p> <p>Free Swim & Slide Boxing Day Saturday, December 26 from 1 - 5:30 p.m. Proud Sponsor: St. Hilda Chapter #27 Order of Eastern Star</p> <p>Didsbury Memorial Complex Holiday Schedules in effect December 21-31 Holiday rental times and special rates available. Arena & Aquatic Centre Drop in & pick yours up!</p> <p>Memorial Complex Arena Special Holiday Rental Rates in effect December 21-31 Youth Rental \$38.50/hr Adult Rental \$54.00/hr Family Rental \$49.50/hr All rates apply from Mon. - Thurs. before noon Book your family get-together Call 335-7369</p>		

O'Neill buckled down for the rides of his life at National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas



By Ceilidh McClurg

Water Valley cowboy, Glen O'Neill went to the National Finals Rodeo to represent the best in the bucking bronc business.

O'Neill headed to Las Vegas for the event sitting in the number seven spot in the world standings, with earnings of almost \$67,000. This was representative of the kind of year he had travelling across Canada visiting many of the rodeos on the professional circuit. Almost consistently in the top three, O'Neill built on the reputation he has as a tough cowboy he's had since starting in the Canadian circuit.

Then the grand accomplishment at the end of a glowing year, O'Neill headed to the NFR for the second year in a row.

During the ten rounds, O'Neill placed among the best almost each and every time on the some of the toughest and meanest stock in the world.

The first bronc O'Neill met up with on Dec. 4, the first day of the rodeo, was called Shanandoah and he held on to tie for fourth place with a score of 77, with two other cowboys.

Round two wasn't quite the

type of day the crowd had anticipated from the local cowboy. He didn't make it into the standing at all.

But it was Dec. 6, and O'Neill jumped back into the saddle to claim the top ride of the day with a score of 84. This performance moved O'Neill up to fourth in the world with total earnings of \$82,832 and an NFR win of \$16,157.

But the rodeo wasn't over yet, there were still six rounds that the cowboy had to endure.

And, endure he did, with a rough and tumble ride on a horse called Lustrum for 77 points and a ninth place.

This moved O'Neill into fifth place position in the world standings.

The fifth round culminated in a seventh place finish on Cindy Lou Who and a score of 78 points. With this ride, he remained fifth in the world.

He bucked himself back into fourth place standings in the sixth go round with a second place ride and 80 points on Hurricane. By this point he had won \$91,305 in the 1998 season.

O'Neill hung in there for a 76 point ride in the seventh round on a mare named Geraldo's Skool which gave time a tie for fourth with two other riders. This kept him in the fourth world place ranking.

But, in the eighth go round, the local boy just couldn't hang on to his standings and had a no score for that round.

But, he wasn't letting go that easily. In the ninth round, O'Neill rode to a tie for third with 79 points on High Coun-

try, which once again put him in fourth in the world rankings. By the second last round O'Neill had brought his total earnings over the \$100,000 mark.

But, despite O'Neill's fight

for the best and continuous placings near the top for the whole week, it didn't earn him the title.

The Saddle Bronc champion for the NFR ended up being a fellow Albertan, Rod Warren

from Valleyview, Alta.

The number one Saddle Bronc rider in the world after the 1998 season was Dan Mortensen of Manhattan, Montana with season earnings of \$227,378.

Attention DIDSBURY shoppers



Unwrap Your



Christmas Dreams

The Mountain View Credit Union, Didsbury Branch in cooperation with 30 Didsbury Merchants is proud for the 8th year to offer our community "Christmas Cheques." Your "Christmas Cheques" can be used for a wide variety of goods and services at any participating business from November 1, 1998 to January 15, 1999.

Applications accepted until December 24, 1998.

• PARTICIPATING MERCHANTS •

- ✓ AURORA TRAVEL
- ✓ D&M CLOTHESLINE
- ✓ INTRA DON'S WORLD TRAVEL
- ✓ AG FOODS
- ✓ MOUNTAIN VIEW SPORTS
- ✓ VANDA AGENCIES
- ✓ SHEAR ECSTASY
- ✓ FOUNTAIN TIRE
- ✓ POTENTIALS
- ✓ WARD VALUE DRUG MART
- ✓ DIDSBURY DRUGS
- ✓ MOUNTAIN VIEW MOTORS
- ✓ CONTEMPORARY GRAPHICS
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- ✓ HOUSE OF HAIR
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- ✓ COUNTRY SIDE FLORISTS
- ✓ FLOWERS 'N FUN
- ✓ THE ART CIRCLE
- ✓ CLIPPERS HAIR SALON
- ✓ MUGS COFFE HOUSE
- ✓ TIMELESS TREASURES ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES
- ✓ RIBBONS & BOW GIFTS
- ✓ OLD BOOT & CACTUS CAFE
- ✓ HOMESTEAD PHOTOGRAPHY

Lovely lights

'Tis the season for one and all to bring the joy of Christmas to their front yard by lights and yuletide decorations.

The Didsbury and District Chamber of Commerce once again sponsored the Christmas decorations and lights judging both in and out of town.

The judges were looking for overall presentation, and the use of space when making their decision, and a tough decision was surely was. However, the winners have been announced and everyone is invited to take a drive by, or a brisk winter walk, to check out all of the hard work put into the designs.

Town

Small home - Charlene and Gary Simms

309 Southridge Cres., Didsbury

Large home - Mary McLaus

1322 - 23 Street, Didsbury

Rural

Best home - Karlene R. Lynn and Wava Meyer

Take 23 St. south to Westcott Road. Turn west for 1 mile, then south for half a mile. It is on the east side.



- Shop Local
- Shop Didsbury
- Shop Interest Free

Pay absolutely
NO Interest
until June 15th, 1999.
Apply for your
Interest Free
Loan Today!

- Household Appliances • Computers • Footwear • New Tires • Auto Purchases, Parts & Service •
- Hair Styling • Holiday Gifts • Travel • Crafts • Pharmaceutical • Hardware & Building Supplies •
- Sports Equipment • TV & Stereos • Tune Ups • Food • Clothing & Footwear •
- General Insurance • Alberta Registry • Christmas Baskets • Fine Art •
- Floral Arrangements • Antiques •

Town gets grant boost

... and other town council notes

Grant boost

Council was informed by Alberta Municipal Affairs that they have been granted an additional \$4,057 for the replacement of accounting software to make it Year 200 compliant.

Airport appointment causes stir

The appointment of a new Town of Didsbury representative to the Olds/Didsbury Airport Commission sparked debate at the last council meeting. The commission had sent a recommendation to the town that Glenn Smith be appointed to their board to fill the position vacated by Ruf May. However, some councillors felt uncomfortable with this appointment because Smith is actually a county resident.

Coun. Judy Kaupp asked, "How can he effectively represent Didsbury if he has no vested interest?"

Smith was the only applicant to advertisements and calls for interest. Although Smith has said that he would rather represent the county, he was willing to represent the town and to do his best to serve their best interests.

Other councillors and the CAO indicated that there had been many precedents in appointing county residents to the commission, both in Didsbury and in Olds. Coun. Don Watt said he didn't see any problem with the appointment, but if it made everyone more comfortable he suggested revising the motion to

appoint Smith to adding that the town will continue to look for a town resident as a representative.

Rate hike

Because of an increase in the number of real estate transactions taking place within Didsbury, the council has approved a rate hike for tax certificate and tax information services. The recommendation, which came through the corporate services committee, indicated that the current charge is \$10. However, because they felt it took a significant amount of staff time to respond to the requests, they suggested increasing the fee to \$15 which would result in an approximate revenue increase of \$2500 per year for the about 400 requests processed each year.

Before the recommendation was made, five other area municipalities were contacted to find out what charge they apply. Charges ranged from \$5 to \$17.

The motion to increase the fees locally was carried unanimously.

A new employee to be hired

Earlier this year, the administration of the town came to council asking that the town office be closed for half an hour per day to accommodate lunch breaks, while maintaining security. The request was denied because council indicated that they wished the office to be open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and told administra-

tion to come back to them with an alternative proposal that would accommodate both the public, and their request.

The recommendation brought back to this council meeting was that council approve the hiring of a part-time person to assist in covering the lunch hour based on two hours per day, five days per week. The motion was carried.

Pin on the welcome

The Town of Didsbury will supply 60 pins to the Didsbury Curling Club to use in welcoming materials when the club hosts the Southern Alberta Masters Men's and Women's playdowns from Feb. 1 through 4.

Closed for good

The third and final reading was given to a bylaw that will close a road 24 Ave. northwest of 19 St. Director of operations, Wes Yeoman told council to consider the future of this piece of property, as there has been some interest in the outright purchase of the site.

Shed sure

The town has endorsed an encroachment agreement on a property at 201 Westhill Close because a shed encroaches onto the utility right of way.

Meeting postponed

The Dec. 30 town council meeting was rescheduled to Jan. 6 due to the holidays.



Lorraine Young, Colleen Dougan, and Dixie Nickerson accept gifts for children at the hospital from the Didsbury Elks Club. Representing the Elks are Keith McKinnon and Bob Davis.

New fire truck

By Ceilidh McClurg

After a couple of years of patience, and some lobbying, the Town of Didsbury Fire Department will finally be getting behind the wheel of a new fire truck.

"This issue has been before this table for about three years," said Evan Parliament, town chief administrative officer.

Two weeks ago, the local council passed a motion allowing the purchase, out of the town funded fire budget, of the new truck with higher capabilities.

When the truck arrives this week, after final inspection, it will be parked in the parking space of the very old 1977 municipal fire truck that is being traded in towards the new purchase.

Gleaming new paint job and decals were being finalized on 1998, 300 horsepower vehicle immediately following council's approval of the purchase.

The new truck will come to a cost, including the trade in, of about \$176,000 plus G.S.T.

Parliament said that although he recognizes that is a lot of money, he suggested that there should be no more delay, as each time the decision was put off, the costs of the highly technical equipment rose. In fact, just a couple of years ago the latest model was \$120,000.

IT'S THE SEASON TO BE
JOLLY

Here's to a season of merriment and mirth, joy and laughter, peace on earth.

From the staff and board of the Didsbury Municipal Library

To everyone in our Health Service District served by
DIDSBURY, DRUMHELLER, SIKSIKA NATION, HANNA/CEREAL, STRATHMORE AND THREE HILLS as well as **LINDEN NURSING HOME,**

we wish you good health and much happiness this holiday season and throughout the coming year.

The support and co-operation demonstrated by you our clients over the past year is most appreciated.

Board, Administration & Staff Health Authority 5

**Didsbury Office 335-9393
Head Office 823-5245**

Christmas is just Around the Corner

All over town, people are enjoying the beauty of the season with their near and dear ones. We'd like to send our best wishes for wonderful holidays to our friends everywhere!

Merry Christmas from the Mayor, Councillors and the Staff of the Town of Didsbury.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Christmas is a very special time as families gather to celebrate the birth of the Christ child. In doing so, it gives all of us an opportunity to renew family relationships and community friendships as well. It is indeed a magical time of year.

It is our sincere wish that you have a wonderful holiday filled with good friends and joyful times. May the miracle of Christmas inspire you with its hope, promise and love through the coming year.

Richard Marz, MLA
Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills

Christmas Message from Myron Thompson M.P. Wild Rose Riding

As we take time this Christmas to reflect on the birth of Christ, Dot and I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and best wishes.

We are thankful for this season; a season of remembering where to turn with all our personal needs and the needs of our country.

We wish each and everyone a very joyful season. May your families receive the gift of all gifts, good health and happiness. God bless you all.

Was it really worth it?

By Ceilidh McClurg

As locals are out celebrating the spirit of the holidays, it may be those very spirits that could get you into trouble on the roads.

Didsbury RCMP say they are aware that this time of year lends itself to careless drinking and driving decisions, but they are on the look out to be sure that those decisions don't end up hurting yourself or someone else on the roads in this area.

"We have been doing daily Checkstops. We do them all of the time, but we bump them up during the festive season," says Sgt. Ron Platz of the Didsbury detachment.

So, now you've been pulled over after a nice evening out with your family, or maybe your friends. You ate some sinfully delicious Christmas snacks and consumed a few drinks.

Police suspect that you've had a few too many because maybe they can smell the liquor on your breath, or maybe they can tell by slight erratic behaviour in your driving.

They ask you if you've had anything to drink this evening. To which, you must admit to having a couple.

One of the officers asks you to please blow into a strange looking contraption. It is actually a portable Breathalyzer call an Alco-Sur Intoximeter.

If in a few moments the light turns green, you move on.

If in a few moments the light

is yellow, your licence can be automatically suspended for 24 hours, and now you are stuck on some cold country road trying to figure out how you will get home.

But, the doom comes if it is red.

You blew it.

You will be arrested and taken down to the local RCMP detachment.

Sgt. Morley Lippai, or another training officer will hook you up to an even stranger looking contraption, the Borkenstein Breathalyzer. It has metres and chemicals that are going to tell the truth, if you can't.

Once your breath sample has been analysed, and you blow over .08 milligrams, the legal limit, you will be charged with a count of Impaired Driving and a

count of driving with an alcohol blood content of over .08.

You are now finger printed, have a photo taken and are thrown into a cold cell where you will spend the night.

The next morning you've got a criminal record, a court date, and are forced to face the truth. You not only risked your own life, you risked the life of any innocent law-abiding citizen who would have come into your deadly path.

There is no turning back.

TAKE A DEEP BREATH
Sgt. Ron Platz of the Didsbury Detachment demonstrates how the Breathalyzer is used when an impaired driver is brought to the station.



Impaired driving facts and figures

The facts:

- In 1997, one in five drivers involved in fatal collisions had consumed alcohol.

- One drink can reduce your ability to concentrate and react.

- Coffee or a cold shower will not sober you up. Only time can do that.

- As the severity of the collision - from non-fatal to fatal -

increased, the involvement of alcohol dramatically increased.

- Smart choices like designating a driver or using alternate modes of transportation will prevent tragedy and further promote safety on our streets.

The figures:

- In 1997, there were 16,588 casualty collisions. In 1,520 - or 9.2% - of them the drivers had

either been drinking or were judged to have been impaired.

- For the same year, in fatal collisions, 95 - or 31.7% - of the drivers had been drinking or were impaired.

The crime:

- It is a criminal offence to operate, or be in care or control of, a motor vehicle while your ability is impaired by alcohol or

drugs.

- If the police determine your ability to operate a vehicle has been impaired by alcohol or drugs, even if your Blood Alcohol Reading (BAC) is below 80 mg, you can be charged with impaired driving.

- Refusing to provide a breath sample can result in a criminal code conviction.

Peace on Earth



From All the Staff
and Management at

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Yuletide Greetings

Christmas just wouldn't be Christmas
without good friends to share it with.
Thank you for being ours.

Kevin & Staff at
Didsbury Meat Processors
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TO YOURS



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season. Thanks for
being a part of our life
this past year. Come
in to see us soon!

Merry Christmas
and many thanks
to one and all!



Best Wishes for a festive
season filled with
treasured memories.

From all of us at
Alberta Treasury Branches.
Didsbury, AB
335-3386

Alberta Treasury Branches
DIDSBURY



**BON VOYAGE**

Crystal Collinge, rear, of Didsbury prepares for her trip to Australia as part of the STS program. Other exchange students at the conference were Karen Lette, Elizabeth Coyle and Janelle Gagne.

From Didsbury across the world

By Ceilidh McClurg

Last weekend was a time of anticipation, excitement, and some trepidation at local Jean Craven's home.

Four young girls had descended on Craven's home for some preparation and training before heading on a Student Travel Exchange program in the coming months.

Local Didsbury girl, Crystal Collinge, 15 is heading to Australia on Jan. 19. Collinge, who has lived in Didsbury all of her life, was learning, along with the other girls, things she will need to know to like

cross cultural difference when she arrives for her year long stay in the country across the world.

Collinge says her mom is a little bit nervous for her, and she is also a bit nervous herself.

"It is a really big place, a lot bigger than Didsbury," she says.

She learned some adjustment technique's during Saturday's meeting of future STS students travelling abroad.

But she is more than just a little excited too. Collinge can't wait to meet new people on her

adventure.

Having an Australian girl, Karen Lette, 17, at the conference to talk to them about the differences and the wonderful things they will encounter in her home country helped provide some perspective to the girls. Lette is also part of the STS program and arrived in Bowden in August and will stay until next year.

Janelle Gagne, 17, from Westlock was in Didsbury to take part in the learning session at Craven's also. Gagne is off the New Zealand next summer for a years stay. She says



RCMP Notes

Fatal accident

Sundre RCMP report that they were called to the scene of a fatal accident about 20 kilometres north of town early Tuesday morning. At 5:55 a.m. Danny Thomson, 28, of Caroline was killed instantly on Hwy. 22. He was a passenger in a pick up truck travelling south when it collided head on with another pick up truck. The driver of the truck that Thomson was in, was transported to Foothills Hospital in Calgary with undetermined injuries.

The driver of the other truck was transported to Sundre hospital to be treated for minor injuries. Police report Thomson was wearing a seatbelt at the time of the accident and that the weather or roads were not a factor.

The names of the two survivors are not being released and the RCMP are continuing their investigation.

Fundraising

Central Alberta RCMP are advising residents of the area that are currently involved with a fundraising campaign in conjunction with the N.H.L. Oldtimer's Hockey Challenge. The funds raised by both groups will go toward running of community minded programs in the area. But, the RCMP also want to caution residents against those who may try to use this as campaign as a chance to conduct criminally fraudulent scams.

the reason she decided to take part in STS was because it was a perfect opportunity for her to do some things she had always wanted to do.

"I've always wanted to travel and I find it a good opportunity before I get out into the working world," said Gagne.

Elizabeth Coyle, 15, from

Calgary was also in Didsbury to get prepared for her journey which will begin in January to New Zealand.

"I thought it would be fun and I wanted to travel," she says.

Craven spent all day Saturday with all four girls helping them set a course for success in their adventure of a lifetime.



May the story of Christmas bring joy to you all!

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May the truth of Christmas be with you through the New Year



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Didsbury Esso-Food And Car Wash 335-8511

Harley and Wendy, Bev, Bonnie, Karen C., Jenni, Karen B., Joyce, Katherine, Ian, Megan & J.D.

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Dec. 24, 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Dec. 25, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Dec. 26, 8 a.m. - 11 p.m.



May your health be cheered by the presence of dear ones!

Joy to All

"...There is a destiny that makes us brothers..."
With every good wish for Christmas and the New Year.



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Sports and entertainment

Mens Open '98 Bonspiel update and winners

By Carson Schultz

There was great excitement as 24 rinks, along with their cheering supporters, crowded into the rink to sweep throw and shout their teams to victory.

Teams from Red Deer, Olds, Carstairs, Cremona, Calgary and Didsbury participated in a very successful spiel that could have hosted 32 teams had we had ice time.

The curling results were as follows:

A Side Winners: Thorpe Rink of Olds, skipped by Larry Richardson, third Darren Brown, second Brian Houchin and lead Ron Thorpe.

A Side Runner Ups: Simpson Rink of Calgary, skipped by David Simpson, third Jason Peckham, second Owen Craig, and lead Ashley Byman.

B Side Winners: Collinge Rink of Didsbury, skipped by Rod Collinge, third Rick Phillips, second Keith Mullen and lead by Doug Fukushima.

B Side Runner Ups: Bishop Rink of Calgary, skipped by Rick Bishop, third Jody Welder, second Arnie Buskus and lead by Brian Stopa.

C Side Winners: Remillard Rink of Olds, skipped by Dennis Remillard, third Ray Miller, second Ken Wessen, and lead by Darcy Miller.

C Side Runner Ups: Craven Rink of Didsbury, skipped by Lyle Craven, third Curtis Conney, second Dave Blazenko, and lead John Neufeld.

Cash prizes as well as locally donated gifts were handed out to game and spiel winners.

Visiting teams and spectators expressed many positive remarks in regard to our rink and the ice of which we locals are very proud. The volunteer kitchen and refreshment staff did a tremendous job in serving it's customers, once again making this the most successful men's spiel in years.

See you all next year!



AND THE WINNERS ARE ...

(Top) A Side Winners: Thorpe Rink of Olds, skipped by Larry Richardson, third Darren Brown, second Brian Houchin and lead Ron Thorpe.

(Middle) B Side Winners: Collinge Rink of Didsbury, skipped by Rod Collinge, third Rick Phillips, second Keith Mullen and lead by Doug Fukushima.

(Bottom) C Side Winners: Remillard Rink of Olds, skipped by Dennis Remillard, third Ray Miller, second Ken Wessen and lead by Darcy Miller.

Grant recipients announced

Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation funds are derived from Alberta Lotteries, the private and the corporate sector which are used by local sport, recreation, parks and wildlife groups in innovative and productive ways. In a continuing effort to promote and fund these aspects in this province, the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation announced that \$94,437 has been awarded to 22 groups in Big Country - Zone 2. Zone 2 boundaries include Olds in the North, High River in the south, Banff in the west and Oyen in the East.

Each of these groups went through an application and review process before funding was offered. Whenever a group wishes financial assistance for a project related to sport, recreation, parks or wildlife development, all they need to do is contact the Alberta Community

Development office in Red Deer at 340-5115 and ask for an application form. The next application deadline is Jan. 1, 1999 followed by April 1, 1999.

The following local grants have already been approved:

Town of Olds received \$2,500 to assist with costs of reconstructing the horseshoe pits at Centennial Park.

Ashley Hawkes of Carstairs received \$650 to assist with training costs incurred in the sport of figure skating.

Justin St. Cyr of Olds received \$650 to assist with training costs incurred in the sport of figure skating.

Olds Spartan Football Club received \$4,000 to assist with the purchase of football training sleds, blocking bags and tackling dummies.

Olds and District Special Olympics received \$6,500 to assist with costs of attending the World Gymnaestrada in Sweden.

Killed to Death hits many funny bones around town

By Ceilidh McClurg

It is hard to distinguish what was the most funny: the costumes, the dialogue, or the banter between the actors and the crowd at last week's dinner theatre performance of *Killed To Death*.

However, it was certainly easy to distinguish that it was another great hit put on by Theatre Didsbury's cast and crew.

Killed to Death is a murder mystery, but instead of your typical characters and situations, there is an element of ridiculousness that makes the play all that much easier to watch and enjoy.

Before the show even started, and while those in attendance finished their dessert and coffee, the characters divulge into the room mulling around and causing havoc at the tables and being answered by the audience with uproarious laughter. It was the audiences chance to interact with each of the characters and really feel like they were a part of the action.

Once the play begins a few moments later on stage, it is almost as though old friends have stepped onto a movie screen as they portray the rest of the play.

As the program states, "The scene is in the drawing room of the late Zeke Codger." And within that room the scene unfolds as relatives and friends of Codger begin to appear on the scene. They are there to find out what they have inherited in the old man's will.

Sharon Peters, played by

Donnally McNeil was the old man's personal maid, although from her stand-out and up appearance and flirtatious manner it becomes clear that the "personal services" she provided were beyond mopping and getting the mail. (You get the drift.)

Peter Small, played by Mike Phillips as the military cook, was cooking up some of his own laughs with his antics and reverse version, military style, of his name.

Grandma and Grandpa Codger, played by Derek Lewis and Marjory Lally, who were the only next of kin to deceased Zeke were the epitome of the exaggerated old miserable couple. Grandpa addicted to his new found candy - Viagra, and Grandma with her knitting and sideways comments to the family.

Harry Butts, played by Larry Kadey, the dead man's proctologist may have had more of a relationship that doctor-patient, as eluded to many times, and that is why he expected to be the recipient of part of Zeke's millions.

Red Probate, played by Jim Klys, the sleazy lawyer and executor of the will, snaked his way onto the already chaotic scene.

But, perhaps the biggest laughs and one of the best played parts was Colin Sephinktor, or Gary Edwards, whose pink pant suit and earrings told their own story.

It was all becoming clear who was the receive the majority of



the dead man's estate, when suddenly something went horribly wrong with his dose of the little blue pills, Viagra. Or did it? Perhaps the only thing that went wrong was that someone had been able to get their hands on his Viagra bottle to tamper a deadly substance into them.

That is where the mystery began, and Inspector Burns, played by the playwright and director, Tony Sylvestre. He was called to the scene to use his "pinpoint instincts and cat like

reflexes" to solve the possible murder of Grandpa Codger.

Burns' humorous accent and silly jokes brought the character to life, and brought the audience to the brink of tears with laughter so hard.

After the investigation was complete, there is a break between the scenes, when the audience is asked to fill out a ballot of who they think the murderer might be.

Burns' returns to the scene to let the audience in on the murder

plot he had discovered.

So who did it? You'll never know unless you've seen the play, and you should.

Although actors and actresses tend to cringe at the thought of breaking up laughing on stage, when the actors in *Killed to Death* did, it added to the atmosphere and the lively spontaneity of the experience. It was also a tribute to the hilarity of the play, when even the actors who had rehearsed these scenes hundreds of times, couldn't contain their chuckles.

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Colts down Cochrane

By Brian Longeway

The Mountainview Colts won a close game against the Cochrane Generals Saturday in Carstairs. The Generals' Kevin Higgins scored the first goal for Cochrane, assisted by Beau Evans and Davin Wine. This was a power play goal scored while Jason Spreeman was serving a five minute penalty for goaltender interference. Spreeman tied the game, assisted by James Fenton and Jason Haffner. Chad Pappas gave the Colts the lead with a power play goal, assisted by Mike Brander and Trent vanDam. The Generals tied the game before the period ended with a power play goal by Jason Young assisted by Higgins and Brian Harvie.

Goalie Joey Killen made some very good saves early in the second period to keep the Generals from scoring. Stephen McGinn gave the Colts the lead late in the second period with a perfect wrist shot in the top part of the net. The assist on this goal went to Brad Jackson. The game winning goal was scored by Ryan Konschuh. This goal was set up by assistant captain Chris Seib who hustled in to the Generals end to get control of the puck. Assists were given to Tom Copeland and team leading scorer Ross Neven.

The only goal in the third period was scored by the Generals Vlair Morla, assisted by Randy Nicklom. Cochrane pulled their goalie for an extra attacker near the end of the game. The Colts had two chances to put the puck in the empty net. Neven missed the open net by inches with a shot from inside his own blue line. Inside the Generals blue line Seib's quick slap at a rolling puck missed by a wider margin. (His father estimated six feet).

The Colts next game is Jan. 2 when Airdrie visits Didsbury. They also host the German National team in Didsbury on Jan. 13.

The Colts played one of their best games of the season in Okotoks on Friday evening. Although out-shot by Okotoks, they had better scoring chances.

They deserved to win, but due to circumstances beyond their control, they came up losing by one goal. The team set up many good plays but were unable to get the puck past the Okotoks net minder.

I don't have a game sheet, but was told Chad Pappas scored two or three of the Colts goals. This was likely Pappas' best game to date this week.

If the Colts continue to play good solid hockey after the Christmas break, they will win more games than they lose.

Flexibility is key to weight loss equation

The ability to adapt becomes vital during the holidays, when we experience many changes in routine. By being flexible, we "flow with the changes" instead of letting them throw us off track.

Pixley suggest these five flexible ways to adapt during the holidays.

1. Think ahead to parties and special meals. Be sure to include your favorite treats in your menu plans. When you choose an item that's higher in calories or fat, compensate for it by making other appropriate choices throughout the day.

2. Exercise a little more. You'll give yourself some "breathing room" in your daily meal/snack schedule.

3. Consider all the alternatives. Different choices might be right for you at different times. And remember a polite "no thank you" is always an option.

4. Avoid black-or-white thinking. If you ate more than you'd planned at a holiday gathering, that doesn't mean you've blown the whole week. Like a stream, you can flow around this obstacle and get back into the groove.

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Holiday movie picks and pans

By Wendy Bauer

The Christmas season is upon us and with it comes a multitude of movie releases both on and off the big screen. In thinking about what to say in this column I was at a bit of a loss. Virtually everyone is familiar with the usual Christmas standards so I thought I would try out some new releases to see how they fair against the tried and true favourites.

The first one I rented was "Ebenezer," starring Jack Palance. This is loosely based on the Dickens story, and I emphasize loosely. The story is set in the old west and has Palance as a greedy, mean card-cheating snake. Palance was very good as Scrooge, but I found it hard to believe him once he had been redeemed. Palance and kindness do not seem to go together. This movie does not come close to the original black and white "A Christmas Carol," with Alastair Sim, but if you are looking for a change of pace you may enjoy it. "An All Dogs Christmas Carol" is also out there. I did not see this one, but the store staff say it is a good choice for the wee set.

"Mrs. Santa Claus" has Angela Lansbury playing a slightly liberated wife to Charles Durning's Santa. She feels left out during the holidays and sets out to prove that she too has a contribution to make. While trying to be of assistance to her hubby, she gets waylaid in Victorian New York City. She encounters a company of willing people who help her on her way but not before she helps them. It was a delightful show and worth a peek during the holidays.

Both my daughter and I thoroughly enjoyed "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer." An animated film which sticks closely to the story line from the popular Christmas song. There are lots of good lessons to be taught about acceptance of oneself but mostly it is just a cute little movie that I know the kids will delight in.

I usually try to steer clear of remakes of old classics as they never seem to measure up to the original but in this case I was delightfully surprised. The 1994 remake of "Miracle on 34th Street," starring Richard Attenborough as Santa and sweetie Mara Wilson as Susan is terrific. It has kept the charm of the original and even improved upon it in many ways. I

did miss the scene when the post office employees bring in all the Santa mail as proof of his existence, but overall it was enchanting and I highly recommend it for the family this season.

A few of the remaining new holiday video releases are "Buster and Chauncey's Silent Night," a charming animated mouse tale, "Richie Rich's Christmas," a live action video and "Beauty and the Beast Enchanted Christmas."

Having seen the new movies I must confess I still favour the classics. I revisited "White Christmas" featuring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney and Vera Ellen and was carried away by the wonderful music and glorious sets. You must see this one again, it really is worth it. I also rented "The Bells of St. Mary's" with Ingrid Bergman and Bing Crosby and was glad I did. My final rental this week was "The Greatest Story Ever Told" and I think every actor of the day had a part in this film. It is a sweeping movie of epic proportions with a story worth telling. This is another holiday must see. My husband and I had fun playing name that actor too.

To round out my suggestions, I thought I'd mention a few of the theatre releases in case you have some time to get out to a movie. We Trek fans will be flocking to see "Star Trek: Insurrection." McLeans panned it, but heck, what do they know. There is also "Shakespeare in Love" featuring Gwyneth Paltrow, and animated story of Moses called "Prince of Egypt" and "Babe: Pig in the City," a sequel to the fun loving original. As you can see there is something for everyone if you are able to hit the deck or should I say road, after stuffing yourself with turkey.

On a final note I would like to wish all of you a very wonderful Christmas and express my appreciation to Gene Hartmann, Ceilidh, Nicole and all the Review staff for allowing me to spew forth my humble opinions. More importantly though, I would like to recognize them (if they will let me) for their unwavering dedication to our community and the support they have shown for all of the groups, events and organizations in Didsbury. Your combined efforts produce one of the finest little independent newspapers around.

THE GREAT RACE

By Frank Pavlick

The 'great race' is coming, it's time for 'the run' The longest and fastest great race ever done. One man against time with the whole world at stake, Thank goodness he knows every shortcut to take. He has his own methods like hollers and hoots, Sure one of a kind in those big running boots. He doesn't appear in great shape to take flight, But covers the world, every house in one night. Preparing, repairing, and carrying gear, 364 days of the year, And then in the greatest run man can recall, He's off on his once a year race of them all. He doesn't wear track shoes like runner we know, His choice is high boots for the dirt, sand and snow. He'll win at the finish, don't worry, because, The big runner himself, is the great ... Santa Claus.

Minor Ball may be in limbo

By Ceilidh McClurg

Didsbury minor ball is going to strike out without a new batch of volunteers.

Former president and organizer, Mary Trenholm has resigned her position after eight years, which she has said she would be doing for a number of years. However, she never did because no one stepped up to the plate to take over for her. But, this year it is official - she is unable to continue her tenure.

This leaves a precarious void in the organization of Minor Ball in Didsbury. Trenholm says she has canvassed a number of people asking them to get involved but the response has been lack lustre.

She says with concern, "If a new executive is not formed from the participating public, there will not likely be minor ball in Didsbury next year."

She says to adequately run the organization there should be a President and a Secretary. A registrar would also be beneficial, however the previous two could do the job if they have the time to commit.

Although organizing the teams would be a task, she says the equipment end of the sport in ably looked after by Mountain View Sports who has said they would take it on again this year.

Trenholm says, "Another bonus would be a coaching coordinator, though in the past we've had wonderful participation from parents when we've been short. There are some excellent coaches already in place." Anyone interested in ensuring the Minor Ball remains in Didsbury should contact Sandra King at town office at 335-3391.

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Fee: \$30.00 / session
Reg deadlines: Jan 18 & Mar 10

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Letters to Santa - Grade 3

Dear Santa,

For Christmas can you bring me a Jack Russel Terrier? I think they are cute and playful. I would name him Bob. I would play with him and my other dog all the time because I like dogs. For Christmas I would also like a TV because I would watch it all the time because I love watching TV. My favorite TV show is the Simpsons. Santa, for an event could you give everybody in the world a good Christmas because everyone deserves one, especially the poor people because they never have a good Christmas. Could you give them all food and a Christmas present.
Sincerely, Michael Arnold
Ross Ford 3D

Dear Santa,

For Christmas I would like a remote control monster truck because I have always wanted one. For Christmas I want all the presents on my list.
Love, Jonathan
Ross Ford 3D

Dear Santa,

I would like a bean bag chair because they are very comfy and because you can take them where ever you want to! What I would like to happen is that all the poor people wake up and see presents and a little bit of money so they can have a Merry Christmas just like us.
Yours truly, Tara Faucher
Ross Ford 3D

Dear Santa,

How is it up there? Cold? It is down here. Well, how are the reindeer? Is Rudolph's nose still red? Oh yes, and is Mrs. Claus still cooking? Yum, yum, yum. For xmas this year could you please bring me a horse? You see, ever since I've known there was such things as a horse, I've wanted one. With their long graceful legs and their neck so long and fragile (sigh!) how I want one. Oh yes, could you also bring a bridle, saddle and brushes. This year could you use all your magic powers and do something very special for the poor people like: give them food, water, clothing and some money (just some ideas). Hope you have a safe Christmas.
Sincerely, Lisa Misener

Dear Santa,

I am writing you a letter to tell you what I would like to have for Christmas, a Sony Playstation. I would to have a happy Christmas.
From, Steven Flood
Ross Ford 3D

Dear Santa,

For Christmas I want a CD Great Big Sea. Because it's my favorite band in the whole wide world. For an event I want all the poor people to have \$100 each because they have no money.
Sincerely, Jan
Ross Ford 3D

Dear Santa,

I would like a Nerf gun because my brother has one and he got it for his birthday. I would like a Small Soldier's rifle. I would like poor people to have at least two or three presents beside their bed when they wake up on Christmas morning.
Your friend, Justin Code
Ross Ford 3D

Dear Santa,

For Christmas I would like the Cargo Railway Lego set because I like Lego and it sounds cool. For Christmas I also would like all the kids to get the things they want.
Your dear friend, Lucas Wagner
Ross Ford 3D

Dear Santa,

I would like Oopsie Daisy because I really like dolls and I really, really like to play with dolls. I wish that my family and I could see my Grandma and Grandpa on Christmas because I haven't seen them for a long time. Have a Merry Christmas.
Yours truly, Tiffany Armstrong
Ross Ford 3D

Dear Santa Claus,

How is Mrs. Claus? This year I would like a furby because it's like a little brother and you could hide some toys around the house. We are going to give the reindeer some carrots and for you some cookies and milk. I hope you make it if there is a blizzard.
Thanks Santa.
From, Kyle Leeson
Ross Ford 3D

Dear Santa,

I have been really good this year. This year I would like Nintendo 64. I would also like a Laser Tag set as well. Can I please have a Spiderman web blaster? This Christmas could you please give all the poor people at least two or three presents so they will have something when they wake up on Christmas morning. How are the reindeer? I hope Mrs. Claus is doing good. What are all of the names of the elfs? How are the elfs? Is it cold down here, is it cold up there? How much snow did you get up there? We didn't get very much snow.
Sincerely, Jesse
Ross Ford 3D

Dear Santa,

I really like the presents that you got me last year but what I really want this year is a horse CD for my computer and a Furby to play with and a dream catcher to hang over my head at night. I would also like if you could get me a feed and groom horse and stable. You know how I love horses. I wish that there could be presents for all the needy people on christmas day. It would also be nice if they could have a nice Christmas dinner. I would be willing to give them some of ours.
Sincerely yours, Kirsten
Ross Ford 3D

Dear Santa,

How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? I'm doing fine. How are the reindeer? Have you've been getting lots of letters? I can't wait for Christmas. I would also like for Christmas a set of Kelly Barbie dolls because I do not have very many of them. I would like Bath Kelly, Eating Kelly and more. I even want Beanie Babies for Christmas. I want a dolphin, a crab, a horse, and a dog. I have 3 Tigger, Twity and Sharlat cow.
From, Kayla Edwards
Ross Ford 3D

Dear Santa,

How are you and Mrs. Claus? How are the reindeer? How are the elves? How old are all the reindeer? I would like a computer. I would also like some more disks. I would like an IBM computer and all the Barbie disks. I would like it but you might not be able to do this. If you could use all your magic powers to bring my Grandpa alive. I would absolutely positively love that! I would also like you to give all the poor people everything that they need to live with. You could give them a home, food, toys, dishes, chairs and all that kind of stuff.
Sincerely, Kiara Rothert
Ross Ford 3D

Dear Santa,

For Christmas I would like a remote because my brother has one and he teases me with it. One Christmas I would like all the poor people to have presents.
Your friend, Kayla M.
Ross Ford 3D

Dear Santa,

I want a Cargo Railway Lego set for Christmas. I want it because I love Lego. I like to take Lego cars and put them on the track and make them crash because it goes fast around the track too. I would like it if all the poor could get some clothes, a house, a bed and \$100. I really feel sorry for all of the poor. I want a watch too so I can play my game I made. It is really fun so I know the time. I hope you get me a walkie talkie too so when I am far away in the school park.
Your friend, Arthur
Ross Ford 3D

Dear Santa,

For Christmas I would like Tooty-frutey. It smells like fruit and you can wash it and it last for a long time. And Santa, could you please, please put a little something beside the poor people's beds because they would love something. Like a pair of clothes or a little toy or something like that.
Love from, Laura Kary
Ross Ford 3D

Dear Santa,

I would please like a CD player because I am really jealous of my brother. I would also like some CDs to go with it. I would like for when the poor people wake up that they would have a present beside their bed. It would be really nice if when they wake up they would have some nice clothes to wear.
Sincerely, Amanda Braun
Ross Ford 3D

Dear Santa,

I would like a CD player and CDs called N'Sync and Backstreet Boys. I would like all the poor people to have as much money as we have so everyone can be happy.
Sincerely, Zachary P.
Ross Ford 3D

More Letters to Santa in Section B

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From Our Homes To Yours

We hope your holiday season is really something to write home about. Enjoy all that the season has to offer with friends and family and plenty of good cheer.

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In Business

Didsburians investing in Didsbury's future

New owners believe now is the ideal time to purchase Victoria Square Mall

By Ceilidh McClurg

It has sat in town centre since the 70s, but one hardly notices the huge commercial building that should really be one of the prides of the downtown core.

And, that is what new owners, Grant and Brenda Hemming are aiming to do.

"We are hoping to improve it for the present occupants and make new homes for some more," said Grant only days before the deal would be official.

It was yesterday, Dec. 22, that the keys to the building were handed over to the proud new owners, local business people, and long time residents.

That is the key, says Grant - local ownership.

According to real estate's memory, the building, which was built in 1978, has never been owned and operated by a local group before.

Grant believes that having Didsburians own the building will automatically instill some much needed pride in the site.

"There will certainly be a general cleaning and upgrading of the site," says Grant.

Of course, he would want it to look good and attract business, because over the Christmas holidays he and his wife will be moving their 12 year old business, Mountain View Electronics, out of the small Main Street shop and into their new investment.

On-site management will be

another key to keeping the mall alive and thriving, says Grant.

The deal to purchase Victoria Square Mall, which is the new standard name for the building on 19 Ave., has been in the works since late this summer. In August, the Hemming's had their sights set on investing locally, when it just so happened that Victoria Square Mall came up for sale.

It looked like a step up for the couple, who will be selling the building Mountain View Electronics currently resides in and they own.

Curiosity this summer led into paperwork this fall, and a completed sale this winter.

"This whole thing just flowed... One thing led to the next," says Grant.

He adds that local business owners' and residents' support helped them to feel stable in their decision to make the purchase.

"It is Didsburians investing in Didsbury and believing in their own town. There's a good investment," says Grant.

"I think Didsbury's economy is on an upswing at the moment."

The Hemmings plan to take advantage of that.

"We hope to renovate and bring some prime retail and office space on-line in the near future."

They say the three most important things in real estate and business settings are loca-

tion, location and location, and the Hemmings feel that the mall has all three. Grant says that 19 Ave., probably has one of the highest densities of business in the core and with improvements to the attractiveness of Victoria Square Mall, all the elements of a great recipe in business will be there.

There are currently nine tenants in the mall with a couple of spaces left. When all of the renovations and sprucing up of the building is complete, Grant believes there shouldn't be any problems filling those remaining vacancies.

Some of the plans to bring people back to the mall include better signage. Grant has some preliminary plans to erect an outdoor sign at the front of the property. He and Brenda also plan to make better use of the parking available on the south and east sides of the building, including installing lighting to the dark parking lot. Making sure all the functional aspects of the building are up to code is another step in the process of improvement.

"It just needs some TLC," says Grant and that is what it is going to get.

Both of the Hemmings will be maintaining their current jobs, and will both take part in the management of the property, because they say, they believe in Didsbury and especially in the potential of Victoria Square Mall.



ITS ALL LOOKING UP
Grant and Brenda Hemming stand on the stairs (of success) in Victoria Square Mall.



The Hemmings welcome Didsburians to come in.

CWB negotiates supply agreement

The CWB has renewed its annual agreement to supply Japan with milling wheat and feed barley.

The CWB will supply Japan with a minimum of 1.2 million tonnes of wheat in calendar year 1999. Prices will be determined through weekly tenders. For feed barley, the Japanese Food Agency (JFA) and the CWB have set 200,000 tonnes as a target for 1999.

"Japan is a very important and stable market for wheat which is used for bread and noodles, durum wheat which is used for pasta, and barley which is used for malt, food and feed purposes," said Chief Commissioner Lorne Hehn, who was in Tokyo as part of the CWB team negotiating the agreements with the JFA.

"Japanese customers value the high quality of Canadian wheat and barley and, over the years, have consistently been one of our most loyal customers."

In addition to the quantities of wheat and barley specified in this agreement, the CWB supplies high quality durum wheat to Japanese millers on a regular basis and has targeted approximately 200,000 tonnes of durum wheat exports to Japan for 1999.

The CWB is one of the world's largest wheat and barley marketers. It is Canada's fifth largest exporter and largest net earner of foreign currency. Marketing Prairie-grown wheat and barley to over 70 countries around the world, the CWB returns all sales revenues, less the costs of marketing, to farmers in Western Canada.

Breed more value

Recent beef tests, testimonials, and strong interbreed show placings are giving Blonde d'Aquitaine cattlemen more data and professional opinions on the value and acceptance of the Blonde beef carcass.

For example, The Original Alberta Beef Carcass Competition at the 1998 Calgary Stampede featured two Blonde d'Aquitaine entries among the top five placings. More than 75 carcasses were entered. George and Michael Gray, Southview Blondes, Duffield, AB, owned the Reserve Grand Champion with a Blonde d'Aquitaine crossbred steer, won \$2,500 (plus the carcass value). The Southview steer had a 1,090 lb. live weight, a 715.5 lb. hot weight (to yield 65.64%), an A Marbling Grade, and a 69.62 cutability score. Southview again broke into the top five, placing fourth with their Blonde crossbred entry and they won \$750 (plus the carcass value).

Butcher Del Derkson offers further endorsement of the Blonde carcass.

"It's nicely marbled with not a lot of fat on it. They yield a lot of meat," he said.

Derkson operates a small meat packing house in Didsbury. He processes more than 300 beef animals yearly of all breeds. He says the Blonde carcass offers good muscling which means a lot of meat.

"And it's the carcass you want if you're going for something a little leaner rather than cuts which tend to have heavy marbling," Derkson said.

For the last several years, Blonde breeders have put testimonials like Derkson's to the test. In independent feedlot trials at XL Feeders Ltd., Bassano, AB, crossbred Blonde feeder cattle profit margins have outperformed both their British breed and Continental breed counterparts.

Evidence of that Blonde feeder success and acceptance was apparent at the November Canada Western Agribition Commercial Cattle Shows. A crossbred Blonde group of five heifers won the overall Feeder Heifer Championship title. Owner Gerry Bertholet, Hartney, MB, won the accolades of the judge, who suggested this Blonde cross-bred group should be "in a class of their own."

Not to be outdone, eastern Canadian Blonde breeders witnessed continuing strong prices paid for Blondes crossbred feeder calves at Ontario auction markets. On several occasions, the Blonde genetics topped the stocker market, including those at the David Carson Sales Arena, Listowel, ON.

Meanwhile, the new "crop" of Blonde bulls are being performance-tested at bull test stations across Canada. Rod Wendorff, an ultrasound technician who did fat measurements on bulls at test centres last spring, was impressed with the carcasses on the Blonde bulls he saw last spring.

"I didn't realize they were that well-muscled," he said.

Using computer-aided ultrasound, Wendorff measured the Blonde bulls (and those of other breeds) for backfat, marbling content and rib-eye area.

These are just some of the new facts and opinions creating the excitement in and acceptance of Blonde d'Aquitaine cattle as the breed continues to establish itself as an efficient producer of red meat.

CWB election recount results

KPMG LLP, the Election Coordinator for the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) Director Elections released on Dec. 17 the results of a recount of the election of directors to the board.

Scrutineers and some candidates were present in Winnipeg to witness a recount following the identification of a logic flaw in the tabulation program used in the first count. The recount was announced by KPMG just hours after the flaw was detected last Monday.

The declared candidates listed below will become members of the board.


- District 1, Arthur Macklin from Grand Prairie, AB.
- District 2, James Chatenay from Red Deer, AB.
- District 3, Larry Hill from Swift Current, SK.
- District 4, Ken Ritler from Kinderley, SK.
- District 5, John M. Clair from Radisson, SK.
- District 6, Ian McCreary from Bladworth, SK.
- District 7, Michael Halyk from Melville, SK.
- District 8, Terry Hanson from Fillmore, SK.
- District 9, William Nicholson from Shoal Lake, MB.
- District 10, Wilfred Harder from Lowe Farm, MB.



From Our Family To Yours

Our sincere best wishes for a sparkling holiday season. Thank you for giving us an extra reason to celebrate!


**From Brad & Craig
Checker Auto Parts**
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335-3349



Warmest Wishes!

And MERRY CHRISTMAS

The Goods & Joy, Angela, Debbie
Sylvie & Heather
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Season's Greetings

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Didsbury
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"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."
--Matthew 2:10

All our best wishes for the brightest Christmas ever!



Didsbury Chiropractic Clinic
Dr. Dave & Dr. Kirsten Phillips & Staff



a Christmas Wish

May the true spirit of Christmas be yours, just as in the manger on that Holy Night, when the star first shone above.

Peace and joy to your whole family all through this season and the coming year.

From all of us at ...

ZION EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY CHURCH
Pastor: Grant Sikstrom Youth Director: David Black

Christmas Services Schedule
Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Cantata 7 p.m.
Combined Sunday, Dec. 27th 10:30 a.m.
Combined Sunday, Jan. 3rd 10:30 a.m.

Best Wishes to all our friends throughout the holiday season!



From all the Management and Staff at



Sun Country Garden Centre & Craft Gallery
7th Ave. at 23rd Street, Didsbury
335-9810



Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year

James & Jeannie Quantz & Staff @

Quality Dirt Works

Mountain View Water Distributors
wants to thank all of their customers for their patronage in 1998.

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year.
Rod, Laurie, Steven, Nicholas **335-9505**

Canadian Wheat Board Bulletin

At a glance:

KPMG announced last week the results of the recounting of the ballots for the election to the Board of Directors of the CWB. The recount was required because of a flaw in the tabulation component of a computer program. The recounting of the ballots resulted in the election of Mike Halyk from Melville, Saskatchewan in District 7. Other previously announced directors remain unchanged.

Members of the Advisory Committee to the CWB will hold their final meeting on Tuesday Dec. 16, 1998. The four-year term for members expires on Dec. 31, the day the new Board of Directors formally takes over responsibility for the CWB.

From elevator to port:

Rail car unloads (for week ending Dec. 13) for the six major grains were 2,289 at Vancouver (target: 3,000) and 948 at

Prince Rupert (target: 800). At Thunder Bay, rail car unloads totaled 3,307 (target: 3,000).

Primary elevator space across the Prairies for week 19 (Dec. 4 to Dec. 11) averaged 23 per cent, unchanged from the week before. Manitoba elevators averaged 18 per cent space, Saskatchewan elevators averaged 22 per cent space and Alberta elevators averaged 29 per cent space.

FOB forward:

Representatives from the CWB and the Canadian International Grains Institute (CIGI) are in China this week to conduct malting barely seminars with end-users. The China-Canada Malting Barley Program, which takes place Dec. 11 through 18, explores the technical aspects of malting Canadian barley. This involves discussion of the production, uses and malting and brewing technology for two-row

barley varieties. For the past two years, China has been Canada's third largest volume customer for malting barely, behind Canadian and U.S. maltsters.

Potpourri:

The Advisory Committee to the CWB was first elected in 1974. Members elected by district were: (1) L.E. Parker, Ste. Agathe, MB; (2) D. Mitchell, Douglas, MB; (3) E. Murphy,

Estevan, SK; (4) V. Althouse, Kelvington, SK; (5) E.K. Turner, Regina, SK; (6) R.R. Atkinson, Landis, SK; (7) A. Sahl, Mossbank, SK; (8) T. Strain, North Battleford, SK; (9) O. Reber, Burdett, AB; (10) G.L. Harrold, Lamont, AB; (11) W.D. Lea, Jarvie, AB.

The Act provided for elections to be held every four years, with the last one held in 1994.

Olds Auction Market

For the week ending Dec. 15

Cattle 2581 Hogs 120

Butcher Cattle:

C1 Heiferettes 57 to 78; Grain Fed and Exotic 47 to 52
Older Cows 38 to 42; Bologna Bulls: 54 to 63
Holstein Cows 38 to 45; Feeder Bulls 62 to 74
Medium Flesh Cows 42 to 46

Replacement Cattle:

250-380 lb steers 125 to 153; heifers 114 to 130
400 lb steers 125 to 146; heifers 110 to 125
500 lb steers 112 to 130; heifers 106 to 120
600 lb steers 104 to 119; heifers 100 to 110
700 lb steers 97 to 109; heifers 97 to 104
800 lb steers 95 to 106; heifers 94 to 100
900 lb steers 90 to 98; heifers 898 to 99
1000 lb steers 84 to 95; heifers 83 to 95
Bred Cows 600 to 1140; Bred Heifers 850 to 1170
Holstien steers 70 to 85

Dairy Barn:

Baby Bull Calves 60 to 140; Larger Bull Calves 150 to 410
Baby Heifer Calves 65 to 130; Larger Heifer Calves 140 to 380

Hog Division:

Weiner Pigs 8 to 16; Small Feeders 17 to 34
Larger Feeders 35 to 60; Sows and Gilts 45 to 70

Sheep and Goats:

Ewes 105; Feeder Lambs 90
Nannies 77.5; Billies 95

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Hay 1.85 to 3.30; Straw 0.70 to 1.00
Large Round Hay 35 to 38; Greenfeed 1.70 to 2.00

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Your goose is cooked!

Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat. Please put a penny in the old man's hat.

If you haven't got a penny, a ha'penny will do, If you haven't got a ha'penny, God bless you!

—Children's Christmas Song

No wonder this poor goose is having a panic attack. It's only about a hundred years ago that the goose was replaced on the Christmas dinner table by that

all-American bird, the turkey. Even today, roast goose is still the centerpiece of Christmas feasts in parts of Britain and northern Europe.

Although turkey is a relative newcomer to Christmas dinner, so too, in a sense, is goose. Prior to goose, European feasts featured roast swan, and before swan it was roast pig or boar's head. (don't ask!) It wasn't until the Victorian era that roast goose became synonymous with Christmas. Charles Dickens' descrip-

tion of the Cratchits' Christmas dinner in *A Christmas Carol* immortalized that "rarest of all birds."

Here in Alberta, several thousand geese are devoured every year by families keeping up the traditions of their parents and grandparents. The typical Christmas goose weighs between 3.5 and 5.5 kilograms and sells for around \$4.50/kg. Alberta's Hutterite colonies are major suppliers of domestic geese; they can also be purchased from specialty meat suppliers.

Geese have more fat than turkeys, which makes the meat tender and juicy. An average-sized goose needs about three hours in the oven to get ready for its appearance at the dinner table. Traditionally, a goose is stuffed with sliced apple rather than the bread or rice stuffing commonly used for chickens and turkeys. And don't forget the gravy. You know the old saying, "What's sauce for the goose, is sauce for the gander!"

The Flip Side of Agriculture



© TISSERAND-HUCULAN/PORTER

"Looks like your GOOSE is COOKED!"

Innisfail Auction Market Report

For the week ending Dec. 16 1607 head

Steer Calves:

250-350 lb average 120 to 154
300-400 lb average 120 to 145
400-500 lb average 120 to 145
500-600 lb average 115 to 130
600-700 lb average 112 to 122

Heifer Calves:

300-400 lb average 120 to 140
400-500 lb average 110 to 115
500-600 lb average 105 to 129

Yearling Steers:

800-850 lb average 100 to 110
900-950 lb average 95 to 110
950-1010 lb average 92 to 107

Yearling Heifers:

700-800 lb average 93 to 109
800-900 lb average 92 to 105
1000-1100 lb average 85 to 95

Feeder Cows: 50 to 65

Butcher Cows: 42 to 52

Bulls: 55 to 62

Bred Cows: 650 to 1310



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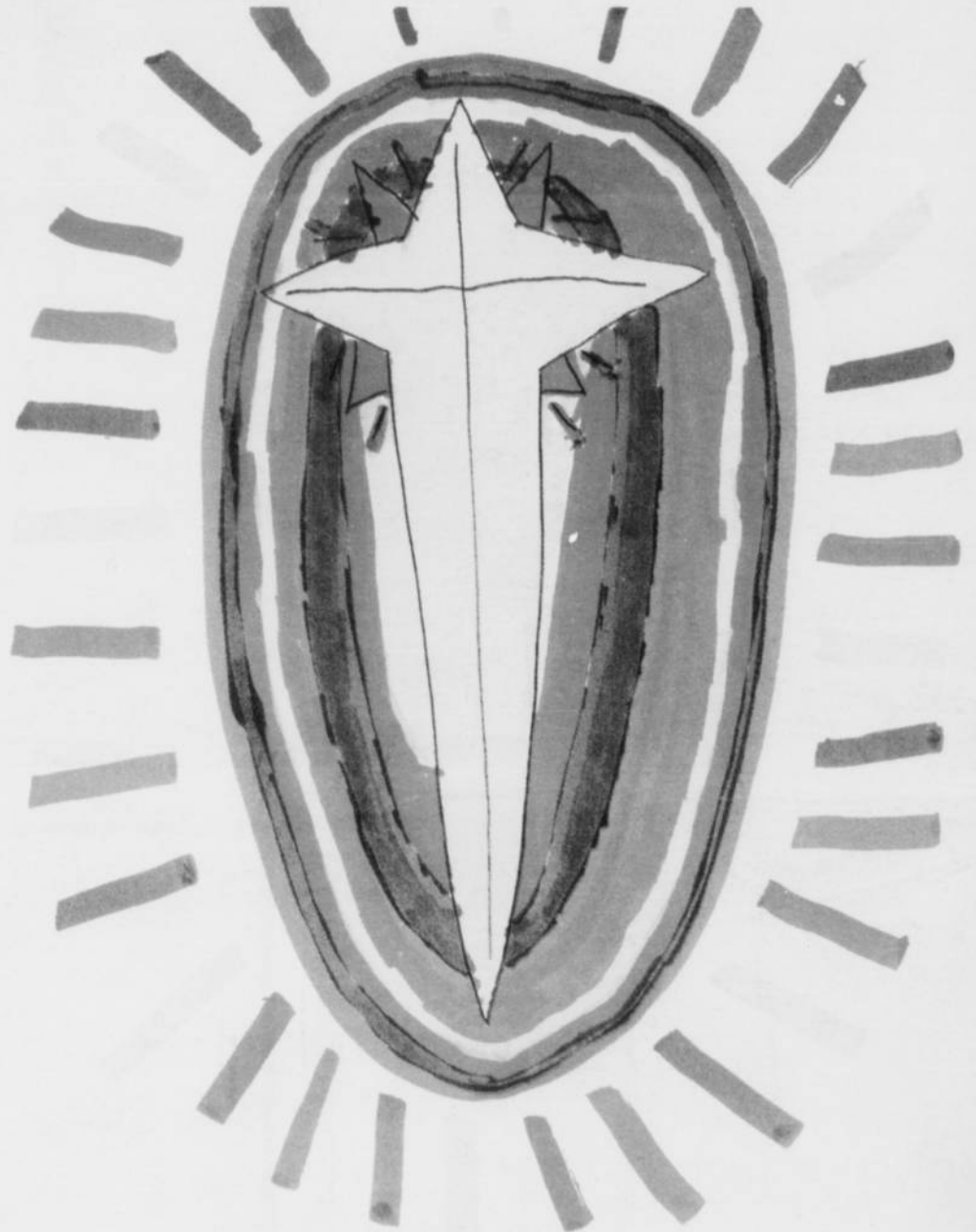
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Section B

Lifestyles

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1998

YOUR SINGLE BEST SOURCE FOR LOCAL NEWS

THE DIDSBURY REVIEW

Write up his alley

By Erin Wilson

Tony Sylvestre has been making people laugh since he was a child giving shows in the backyard on his picnic table in Edmonton. When he launches into one of his accents you know there is an actor inside this man who moonlights as the produce manager at AG Foods.

His latest offering, "Killed to Death," is his first attempt at writing. From all indications this play will continue to make people laugh. "Killed to Death" is being put on by Theatre Didsbury. Sylvestre is one of the principle players in Theatre Didsbury, along with Derek Lewis.

"If we make you laugh, you'll come back," said Sylvestre about the philosophy of Theatre Didsbury.

That philosophy reflects Sylvestre's love of comedy. As a child he admired Jerry Lewis, Abbott and Costello, and George Carlin.

"I love all types of comedy, it depends on the situation," said Sylvestre when asked what type of comedy he enjoyed performing most.

The acting bug has been in the Sylvestre family for many years.

"My grandfather worked for the provincial government, but he was also an actor in a travelling show in the Edmonton area," he said. Show business continues to be a family affair for Sylvestre with Theatre Didsbury.

"My sister worked backstage for this last show and Donnelly, who I live with, has worked backstage and acted."

Before Theatre Didsbury was born, Sylvestre performed in Olds in musicals such as Brigadoon, Anything Goes, South Pacific, and Music Man. Sylvestre met his future partner in Theatre Didsbury, Derek Lewis, in Olds 12 years ago.

"I approached Tony in a store. I had heard that he had a good singing voice and a aptitude for acting," said Lewis. The shows

were put on at Olds College. The partnership between Lewis and Sylvestre eventually evolved into friendship that has continued today with Theatre Didsbury.

Theatre Didsbury came to be after a figure skating club requested a murder-mystery seven years ago with Sylvestre starring and Lewis directing. Since then Theatre Didsbury continues to have great responses to their shows.

"We did a show in Spruceview and before we could get backstage and change, we had two gentlemen from Innisfail come backstage and book us for Innisfail," said Sylvestre. "Spruceview booked us again for the next year as well."

In the past, Theatre Didsbury has put on shows by other writers through Samuel French publishing.

"We have a great big catalogue and it's our bible for picking shows. We pay royalties on them (to use them)," said Sylvestre.

But this year Sylvestre decided to write his own murder-mystery to perform. The idea of writing "Killed to Death" came from events in the media.

"I wanted to have a comedy of course, even if it was a murder mystery, hence the title, "Killed to Death," said Sylvestre. "I threw in a lot of things like Bill Clinton and viagra in. I think it poked fun at our conception of sex."

From all indications, Theatre Didsbury and Sylvestre will continue to thrive as they launch into rehearsals for their next show, "What the Rabbi Saw," in the new year.

But whether or not Sylvestre writes another piece this season remains a mystery.

"I might tackle another murder mystery. We've tossed that idea around," said Sylvestre.

For fans of Theatre Didsbury and Sylvestre's first attempt at writing, one can only hope he decides to pick up his pen again.



MEETING OF THE MAGICAL MINDS

Santa confers with his special helpers to outline the plans of the evening ahead of them, Christmas Eve. *A Very Sticky Christmas* was written by Judi Whittaker, was playing at Melvin Hall over the Christmas season.

Christmas traditions explored

Editor's Note: Due to the positive response to this article in Christmas edition last year, we have decided to re-run it for those of you who haven't had the chance to peruse the piece.

By Hilary Clark

Christmas time is here again and it is time to get into the full swing of the holiday fervour. You go out to a tree lot and pick out the perfect Christmas tree. You go home and decorate your home with mistletoe and boughs of evergreen along your bannister. On Christmas Eve you and your children read a bedtime story, hang up your stockings and return to bed in hopes that Santa Claus will pay you a visit during the night. But, what does this have to do with the birth of Christ anyway?

To learn more about our holiday traditions we have to take a step back more than a thousand years. Jesus has been gone a long time already and Christianity is spreading throughout Europe.

Even the emperor converts. But there is still a lot of people

who refuse to give up their old habits and adopt the new, accepted religion. In perhaps, one of the most brilliant marketing moves, the Catholic church decides that instead of outlawing pagan traditions, they will Christianize them.

That is they choose to adopt old world, old pagan practices and turn them into acceptable things. This went over well for the pagan tribes of northern Europe. Here was the chance to keep doing the same things they did every year to celebrate various changes of season and times of year. It made the new religion a whole lot easier to swallow.

There are many things to look at when we look to explore the roots of our Christmas traditions. Some of them came from the old pagan traditions, and some were born out of modern commercialization.

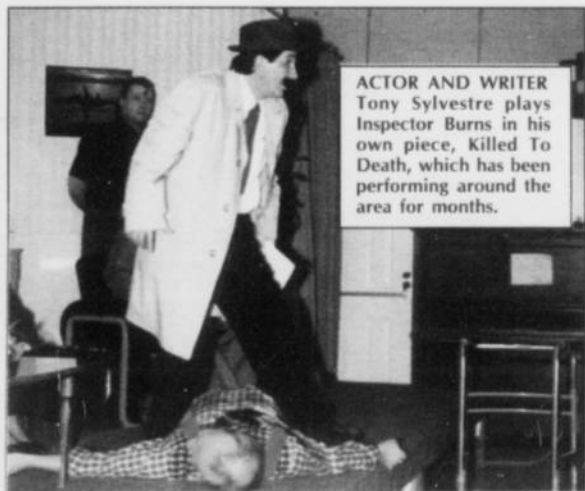
Let's start with the date of Christmas itself, Dec. 25. Everyone knows that Jesus was not born on Dec. 25. In fact, historians have worked out that he was probably born in the late fall. But

in the middle of the fourth century Pope Julius I decided to end all speculation and declared Dec. 25 as Jesus Christ's official birthday. The reasons for his decision are not really known.

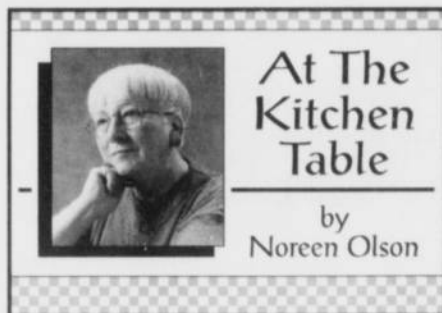
Prior to his announcement there were months of research into finding the real date of Christ's birth. But all attempts proved futile. Some suggest that the decision was reached on the fact that everyone believed Christ died on March 25, so he also must have been conceived on that date, in order for him to have the perfect life. That would place his birth in December.

But perhaps the cleverest reason for choosing Dec. 25 was the fact that it fell in the middle of all the old pagan mid-winter festivals. All of the old festivals then fell under the heading that was Christmas, and thus their customs which included feasting, drinking, dancing, gift-giving, the lighting of fires, the holding of parties and general merriment became Christianized.

Continued on Page 2B



ACTOR AND WRITER
Tony Sylvestre plays Inspector Burns in his own piece, *Killed To Death*, which has been performing around the area for months.



Merry Christmas to all the people I love and to the few who I do not. Merry Christmas to all our neighbors, and friends both old and new, to the people who don't send Christmas cards, and to all the ones that do. Merry Christmas to the apathetic and the uninvolved for even they, care a little, about Christmas.

Merry Christmas to doctors and nurses, police and fireman, veterinarians, social workers, druggists, airline personnel, bus drivers, employees of the telephone, power and gas companies, snowplow drivers, grocery store clerks, (who by now must be sick of the sight of food) hairdressers, waitresses, and attendants in service stations. Merry Christmas to Alberta weather forecasters, who work against impossible odds, and editors, reporters and newscasters who try their best to get the facts straight and spell the names right.

Merry Christmas to men and women in Agriculture, the dairyman whose Christmas stable is filled with Holsteins, the rancher rolling out hay and the egg producer who feeds, picks, sorts and packages even on Christmas Day. Maybe bee keepers and hay and grain farmers can take the day off but anyone who has animals works on holidays. Merry Christmas to fox farmers, ostrich, emu, elk, buffalo and goat fanciers, horse lovers, kennel keepers and shepherds.

Merry Christmas to housewives, mothers, and Grandmas who have worked themselves into exhaustion. I hope it was worth it. Merry Christmas to everyone who got the gifts they wanted and Merry Christmas to the ones who got what they deserved.

Merry Christmas to our local Post Office people who work hard and do a fine job. Merry Christmas to the staff in Banks and Credit Unions, to antique dealers and photographers, to entrepreneurs and handicrafters and clerks in stores.

Merry Christmas to teachers and ministers and bands and choirs, to Cubs and Scouts and AWI Girls Club, to Girl Guides and Brownies and 4H and every kid who ever earned a badge or recited a pledge or tried to live up to an ideal. Merry Christmas to all the leaders, volunteers, organizers and supporters who make these programs possible. Merry Christmas to the Legion, Sons of Norway, W.I., Lions, Kinsmen, Elks, B.P.O.E., I.O.D.E., MADD, and all the other volunteer driven and supported church and service clubs that hold our community together. Merry Christmas to all the people who support, run and use the Food Bank, to Santa's Anonymous, the Salvation Army and ladies groups packing parcel for shut ins and seniors. Merry Christmas to Seniors Groups and Department Store Santa's and Bell Ringers at Salvation Army kettles.

Merry Christmas to all the little children who didn't get Cool Blue Barbie or Baby Spice or Simba's Pride and Merry Christmas to the ones who did. Merry Christmas to everyone who will be playing Canadian Trivia after dinner and to the patient people who will be teaching Chinese Checkers to four year olds. Merry Christmas to families with new babies and to families whose numbers decreased. Merry Christmas to the handicapped and special people and everyone who loves and supports them. Merry Christmas to people who can't get home for the holidays, old and young who are lonely, and everyone who gave away some of the joy and warmth of the season. Merry Christmas to everyone who eats too much and spends too much but not to the ones who drink too much and drive.

Merry Christmas to Carol Singers, especially the ones who don't sing well, but sing anyway.

Merry Christmas to everyone who shares food, warmth, joy and laughter.

Merry Christmas to all the readers of this column and God Bless Us Every One.

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CHAT *Community History And Trivia*

By Marg Weaver

Once upon a time in 1907, a little girl and boy were told by their teacher they were going to a brand new school.

They had watched this school being constructed with bricks and sandstone quarried right here in Didsbury.

When they walked inside this brand new school, they saw big high ceilings shiny floors, the smell of new wood. It was all so big and new it took their breath away.

Their feet echoed through the huge stairways, so much room, so many desks. Not a bit like the little crowded school they were used to.

"We'll get lost here," they said. "No, you won't," their teacher said. "I'm here to help you find your way."

Soon lots of other boys and girls joined them and their footsteps echoed through the long hallways and their happy voices brought this great new school to life.

These boys and girls are now grandparents and they see their beautiful big school is still alive with memories of all the children, like them, who attended there.

The old school still stands in all its glory as a museum and it has been honoured as a historic site.

There are plaques hanging on the walls with names of many of the children who attended there.

Would you like to have your name added to these plaques, if you haven't already done so?

Go back to your old school and ask if you can by a nameplate to put on these plaques. You will not only tell all who visit the Museum that you went to school here, but you will help to preserve this grand old building where you spent so many happy hours.

Why not buy a nameplate for \$25 and let your name stand as a monument to this happy time of your life?

A culture steeped in tradition

Continued from Page 1B

The act of gift giving evolved, it reached an elaborate head in ancient Rome where numerous superstitions went along with the gift giving that was a part of the mid-winter festivities. When Christianity came along they tried to end the gift-giving when the mid-winter festival became Christmas.

But this was easier said than done. So, as it became apparent that people were unwilling to give up the chance to give and receive gifts, the church gave gift-giving a sacred context. The giving of gifts now symbolizes not the fruits of the season but the gifts the Three Kings brought to the infant Jesus.

The official explanation was that gift-giving symbolized the unselfishness of Christianity.

At Christmas time the gifts are always placed under the Christmas tree, which is perhaps the most pagan of all popular Christmas practices.

The Christmas tree started in Germany and has only become popular outside of Germany in the last 150 years or so. It stems (pardon the pun) from the old pagan practice to worship the oak tree. The tree-worshipping Germans were too far gone to convert to Christianity so again the old practice was 'adopted' by the Christians. But instead of the oak, the fir tree was chosen. It was said that the fir tree represented the holy trinity, Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit, because viewed from the side, it was a triangle.

The practice of decorating the tree was readily accepted by the Germans, but took a long time to spread outside of their country. It was not until Queen Victoria's husband, German-born Prince Albert, put up a tree at Christmas in 1840 that it was readily accepted by others in Britain.

The tree was also popular in Canada and the US but took longer to achieve popular status in Latin countries, mostly because the Catholic church could not accept the openly pagan aspect of the Christmas tree.

Perhaps one of the most perplexing characters of the Christmas season is Santa Claus.

A figure who seems to have nothing to do with the birth of Christ at all. But Santa Claus is a lot closer to true Christianity

than the Christmas tree or even the practice of giving and receiving gifts. St. Nicholas was a bishop in modern-day Turkey.

He was born in 280 AD and is famous for his Christian works. Legend has it he was immensely rich and gave away all of his wealth in secret to help the poor, he was also known to help children in trouble. Because of his gift-giving and the helping of children he became very popular as a saint in Europe.

Thousands of churches were dedicated to him. His feast day was Dec. 6 and on that day children would leave out their stockings and in the morning receive candy and small gifts, if they were good; or a whipping swatch if they were bad.

He became a very popular saint in Holland where his name was pronounced "Sinter Klaas" or "Sinter Claes," which soon became Santa Claus.

At this stage the clergy were more than happy to accept the growing global importance of Santa Claus, mostly because he was a real saint and he was a true example of selfless gift giving.

The only job to do was to move his arrival to the 25th, thus making him a part of the true celebration of Christmas. In some parts of the world people still celebrate his feast day by leaving out their shoes and a list of what they really want for Christmas. Santa Claus became a jolly fat man in a velvet suit only in this century and thanks to modern marketing.

An artist at Coca Cola was the first to draw Santa Claus as we know him today in the 1930s, his goal to provide a boost to the depressed population. The figure was so popular that it stuck around and was universally accepted as Santa Claus.

Even as Santa Claus' popularity grew with children in the world, and even seemed to be beating out Jesus, he lost favour with the church. In the 1950s French clergy burned him in effigy and in 1969 he was "demoted" by Pope Paul VI, but it was too late to stop him.

A lot of our Christmas traditions are owed to an American author and poet named Clement Moore who in 1822 set out to write a little Christmas ditty for his children. He called it, A Visit from St. Nicholas, or as it is

commonly known, The Night before Christmas... It was Moore who decided that St. Nicholas should arrive with reindeer, instead of his traditional horse or donkey. And it was Moore who decided that St. Nick should slide down the chimney. The reindeer stem from the old Finnish belief that Old Man Winter would drive his reindeer out of the hills and bring with him the snow. Moore just turned Old Man Winter into Santa Claus and made him drive the reindeer onto rooftops. The idea of coming down the chimney was said to be rooted in the belief that one should have their chimney cleaned on New Year's Day to bring good luck for the upcoming year. Moore just bumped the custom forward a few days.

Mistletoe is readily assumed to be one of the most pagan rituals part of our Christmas celebrations. Some of the idea of mistletoe does stem from the pagan winter custom to bring greenery indoors, but the actual idea of hanging mistletoe and kissing underneath it has a Christian beginning that over time has become a very paganistic ritual.

In Britain, people used to hand mistletoe or any green leafy material over a doorway and place in the middle a tiny replica of the nativity. Anyone passing under the bough would embrace, to symbolize that during the holiday season everyone was loved in a Christian way.

Over time the Christians threw out the idea of using tiny idols and the nativity was removed, but the bough remained. People were hard pressed to give up the idea of embracing under the bough, and it soon became custom to kiss under it instead.

This is a custom that continues today.

Christmas, which is one of the holiest dates on the Christian calendar is perhaps one of the most pagan of all Christian celebrations. The Christian practice of amalgamating different beliefs into one acceptable norm has ensured that Christmas will continue to be celebrated throughout the world, instead of being forgotten like the old pagan celebrations like the Roman Saturnalia, the Norse ceremonies for Odin and the celebration of the birth of the Persian god Mithra.

Local woman's poetry recognized in national contest



By Ceilidh McClurg

A Carstairs woman has been honored by the Poetry Institute of Canada for two of her original poems.

The First Day of School by Ruth Bouck, has been published in *Island of Impressions*, a poetry book published by the Institute.

Bouck says the poem was inspired by her own daughter's first day heading into the new and wonderful world of school.

From her rural Carstairs home, Bouck puts the sights and feelings she experiences in life to paper, and out comes an award winning piece of poetry.

She says she has been writing for several years and her favorite subjects are family, children, music and travelling.

Bouck was also honored for a second poem she had submitted to the contest called *What Grandpa's are For*. That poem is about her now deceased husband, and the times he spent with his grandchildren. This includes the time he rescued a cat for the children off an electric pole.

The 12 dogs of Christmas

Twelve dogs from the Animal Shelter Rescues surely bring about at the very least 12 tales to tell. The dogs that past through our home and left a bit of themselves behind.

Mo lived in the back of a pickup truck before the shelter. After bathing/ clipping he was a handsome guy. Mo lives in Olds with his new family, leaving behind ...

Lenard. While at the shelter Mo and our own little dog got acquainted. All the pups but little Lenny got new homes. He was a 'keeper.'

Sara and Murray came to the shelter as a pair of small sheltie crosses. Shy to the point of running away from food, it took time to teach them of a better life. Sara was placed in a loving home and was spay. Murray went to a home locally and is dearly loved by three kids.

Sadie was a pick up in the country. Small in size with a body clip, this little keeshound cross was with us for four months, making us smile with her antics. Pam had been out a couple of times to see about a dog and the match was made. Pam and Sadie spend most of their time together along with Jim.

Howard, a basset cross, was with us for only four days before a dad and two kids came looking

for a gift for the wife/ mother. One of the breeds she had a fondness for was ... bassets. If not for this great family, Howard was a 'keeper.'

Talon was given to us for placement due to limited space in a relocation. Being a Doberman was not a problem. Gentle and sappy would be two words to describe him. The new home was great, until she developed severe allergies to Talon. He is back waiting for another great opportunity to brighten someone's home.

Dex is a neutered male, pitbull looking dog. The owners left him behind when they moved to the city.

Blackbear is a friendly spay lab about two years old. A family breakup and relocation left her in our care for a new beginning.

Kitty is a sharpie cross lab yellow in color, needs a home just for her. She was having problems in a neighbourhood with other dogs. Perfect for that one on one relationship.

Buddy, a small pup of 12 weeks when he arrived at the end of September, is now ready for a family of his own. One of the Alberta Best cross breeds, his devotion just can't be measured.

Freddie completes this going tale. Being a repeat visitor

through the animal control, his owner just didn't come or call about him. He was a bichon cross with lots of matts and aroma. Once cleaned up, he was rather dashing. Twin boys of six now share his life, having been relocated to the Medicine Hat area.

The stories will go on, the size, color and shapes may change, but the best part for most of our stories is we help provide for the happy endings.

Remember the less fortunate during the holidays, even the four legged ones. Food donations can be left at Pretty Paws in Didsbury. Adoption option is available by calling 337-3956.

Looking for a strike

By Nathan Taylor

After a couple of more serious, hard-working, judging meetings, the Mountain View Dairy 4-H is going to take some time out to have some fun. Dec. 21 was be our next meeting, at the Olds Bowling Alley. After a little fun in the alleys, we had pizza and a gift exchange. No judging! We will also made a donation to a food bank after members brought some non-perishable food items. After all this won-

derful Christmas fun, they tell me that our next meeting will be Jan. 9 at the Rosebud Hall at 10:30 a.m. This will be our annual Public Speaking, Pedigrees, and Record Book Workshop. Sounds fun- I can't wait! See you all at the bowling alley. Oh yeah, I should say congratulations to Amanda Taylor on winning a regional award for multi-judging. I guess all those judging meetings might be worthwhile!

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The Dragon's Den: Pleasing play performance

Welcome to the Dragon's Den. This is our final update for 1998.

On behalf of all the students and staff of DHS, we'd like to wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday. Christmas holidays began on Dec. 18 and run until Jan. 4. Be sure to relax over the holiday, because January is exam month. Also please be sure that you have seen and signed your child's interim report and sent it back to the respective teacher before the holiday's, or immediately afterward.

The Christmas activities held at DHS last week were a lot of fun. The Christmas House Building competition was won by the Grade Nine girls, Randi, Jessica, Lindsey, Chris and Kim. The Turkey Shoot Free Throw competition was won by Deanna van Dam and Josh Forestall, and the Turkey Distance Shoot competition was won by Carla Shultz and James Edwards. The annual Door Decorating competition was won by Mrs. Wirth's class - with her Foods students decorating with some finely baked Christmas treats. Second place went to Ms. Campbell's English 23 class, who paper macheed an excellent replica of Frosty the Snowman. Congratulations to all the winners and to all those who participated in our yearly festive activities here at DHS. The school Christmas Assembly was also a lot of fun, with the play by Ms. Campbell, a slightly twisted Scrooge story with many humorous parts. The Twelve Days of Christmas put on by the Students Union was also a great success, with out-



DHS students perform an unusual Christmas story during their assembly last week.

standing singing and very creative ideas. Also, we were very fortunate to have as guest performers the Grade One classes of Ross Ford. The repertoire of Christmas tunes was quite diverse, yet these wonderfully talented children managed to sing beautifully and enthusiastically, much to the appreciation of the students and staff of DHS.

Ms. Turner would like to express her gratitude, on behalf of the Exit Community Outreach, for helping to raise over \$400 in cheques and cash, and then 1.5 car loads full of clothing, toiletries, children's toys and

other necessities. Special recognitions needs to go to Tyr Aviation, Doris Dietrich, Teresa McNeil's family and the Didsbury Outlaws 4-H Club. Your generosity will help to keep many unfortunate teens warmer and perhaps even healthier this winter.

In Basketball news, the Grade Nine Girls played a game at Carstairs and won 18-16. The JV Boys and Girls also played against Sundre and both teams won their matches. Basketball is off to a roaring start this year, and we look forward to cheering on our teams to the

top, which there's no doubt they'll reach. Congratulations to all the teams!

The Alberta Press Council is awarding is awarding Scholarships valued at \$1000 to Alberta residents currently attending high school. Applicants must submit an essay based on the topic "How is your newspaper important to your community?" The essay must be typed and double-spaced, and students will be judged on creativity, writing skill and content of the essay. Applications must be submitted

by Jan. 15, and winners will be notified by Scholarship Fund at (403) 427-8640 or Mr. Neuberger at the school (335-3356).

Other students interested in getting scholarships should check out the following sites on the internet, www.schoolfinder.com and www.aucc.com.

Once again, Merry Christmas to all from the students and staff of DHS! And we wish you health, happiness and success in 1999.

Picking out the perfect turkey

Buying, storing, thawing and preparing - a lot goes into a turkey dinner before it is enjoyed on that special occasion.

"Turkey is synonymous with celebration events and dining at it's very best," said Lorea Ladner, food scientist with Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Leduc.

"Starting at the very beginning, a successful turkey supper starts with buying the bird. As with all packaged food, examine the food and its packaging at the store and again before it is used. Avoid turkeys in damaged, ripped or torn packaging."

Turkey is a perishable product, so storing is very important, also. If purchased well ahead of time, store turkey in the freezer at -18 degrees C or lower until ready to thaw.

"Thawing a turkey is always a subject that generates many questions: what is the safest method? What is the quickest method? Should a turkey be thawed slowly in the refrigerator, immersed in water or left to thaw at room temperature? All valid questions," said Ladner.

"Never thaw a turkey on the kitchen counter. It is recommended that turkey be thawed in the refrigerator. A platter or plate large enough to catch any juice is advisable. Give yourself plenty of time to thaw the turkey, several days, in fact. De-

frosting time can be calculated as 24 hours for every five pounds of turkey."

Turkey can also be defrosted in cold water. Be sure that it is in a leak-proof plastic container or plastic wrap. The water should be changed about every half hour. Be sure to cook the turkey immediately after thawing.

"Preparation time is probably the most labour intensive part of a celebration dinner," said Ladner. "Whether choosing turkey, chicken, ham or beef, be sure to give some extra care and attention to handling, preparing, cooking and serving meats. Be sure to wipe down surfaces both before and after preparing meat. Use clean utensils for cutting, scoring and lifting. Be sure to wash utensils in soapy water before using again."

It takes very little time to sanitize the surface where raw meat has been sitting before chopping up vegetables but it makes a huge difference in controlling the transfer of bacteria. The best rule to follow is to wash all surfaces and all utensils before and after using them. Use a tablespoon of bleach in a gallon of water to wipe surfaces on which raw meats have been prepared. This step helps eliminate bacteria.

"When the bird, roast or leg of lamb is ready to be popped in oven, make sure to follow the guidelines for temperature and time and thoroughly cook meats," she said. "Meat thermometers make it easy to monitor the internal temperature of meats to ensure they are cooked properly. Have a safe, happy and healthy celebration season."

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Back: Doug Martinson, Faye Uly, Lorna Reese, Dan Harder
Front: Sue Kary, Diana Neufeld, Wanda Braybrook
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South West Didsbury news

By Bessie Eckstrand

Sympathy of the area is extended to Mrs. Ev Tuggle and family and the Gibson family as Ev's brother George Gibson of Calgary passed away at his home on Dec. 10 at the age of 82 years. Memorial services were held on Dec. 15 at Pierson's Funeral Home.

Sylvia Rice had the surprise of her life when "Country Women's Magazine" phoned her to

say that her recipe for Apple Apricot Cobbler had won the grand prize. You can look for the recipe in the March/April issue. The magazine headquarters are in Wisconsin, USA and each month requests are made for special recipes in different categories. The last month was for Cobblers and Crisps.

There was quite a bit to winning the prize. She had to take a whole roll of film of herself

cooking and then they'll choose a picture or pictures to put in the spring catalogue. Congratulations Sylvia, you're a great cook. Hope you send in some more recipes. How about a wild blueberry one and may you win again.

I would like to wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to Review owner Gene Hartmann and wife Ila and staff and the readers.

Cremona Student's Union

By Miranda van Herk

It's time for the Christmas edition of the Cremona Student's Union report. The middle school had a dance on Dec. 16, and in the spirit of Christmas, the Student's Union bought candy canes for everyone that attended.

The Student's Union also bought candy canes for a little event we call "Secret Candy Canes." Anyone in the school body can purchase a candy cane for \$0.50 and it will be sent to whomever that person wishes. It can be anonymous (hence the name) or signed. Along with the typical To: and From:, you can write a personalized message. It's a fun way to spread Christmas cheer.

A disappointing event took place a little while ago in our school. Our vending machine in the students' lounge was stolen from. It happened when the person who stocks the vending machine was away for a few minutes. As we've never had this problem before, the vending machine was left open. Approximately \$290 was taken as well as several of the candy products. The Students' Union is offering a \$30 reward to the person who is wishing to tell who the offending parties were. If anyone has tips or information and they wish to impart what they know anonymously, there are a few ways to do it. One, you could write it down and put it in the tip box at school. Or, you can call the school and inform them, while still remaining completely anonymous. Or if you're a brave soul, you can tell someone on the office staff.

As school is out for the year of 1998, you may have to wait until January to follow up on any of this information.

Christmas is a time to show the people who love us and care for us dearly how much we appreciate them and care about them as well. From everyone at Cremona School, have a happy holiday. Merry Christmas.

Lodge News

By Annie Caush

The Ladies Auxiliary came early in December and as usual did a super job of decorating the Lodge. It's really beautiful!

We expect to see a lot of you coming in over the next couple of weeks. After they did the decorating they hosted the December Birthday Party. Joyce Lachman came and played the piano and Carol Spreeman led up us in singing Christmas songs.

Those celebrating December birthdays are Ivy Colley, Laura Watkins, Vivian Carlson, Harry Hayser, Bob Gathercole, Doris Robertson and Dorothy Paton in that order.

One was a "party" to celebrate the end of renovations and the "home-coming" of those who had stayed in the motel.

Last Thursday night the staff put on their special program for us. Each of them was dressed to represent a Christmas song. Joyce Hoey and her sister Carol sang the song. It was hilarious! Try to imagine an almost life size "horse" pulling a child's sleigh for "Dashing through the snow" or "I saw mummy kissing Santa Claus." I encourage our readers as you meet with Lodge residents over the holiday to ask us about that evening. There were pictures taken but I wish someone had had a video camera there.



WITH HEARTFELT THANKS

May you enjoy all the splendor and wonder of this magical season.
We really enjoy having neighbors like you!

from
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Common Ground: Youth Justice Resource program

By Chris Bannerholt,
Regional Resource Worker
for the Youth Justice Resource Program

The Youth Justice Resource Program would like to commend all Region 5 Youth Justice Committee members on their valiant efforts over this past year. The concept of Youth Justice Committees originates from the Young Offenders Act, which provides legislative authority for the use of "Alternative Measures" other than judicial proceedings. Essentially, the YOA permits provincial governments to appoint volunteer community committees to assist the courts in dealing with young offenders.

According to the Alternative Measures Program, a young person who accepts full responsibility for a criminal action, may be diverted from court and appear before an appointed group of community volunteers, known as a Youth Justice Committee. At this point, the committee meets with the youth, his/her parents and possibly the victim or others affected by the crime, and decides

on the best way to deal with the young person. If the youth complies with the conditions set out by the Youth Justice Committee, which might entail community service work, restitution, counselling, apologies, etc., their charges will be dismissed by the courts. Conversely, in a case where the young offender does not comply with the conditions, the charges will be returned to the courts. The process was initially designed to handle first time offenders, however, certain committees have encountered second and third time offenders.

The Alternative Measures Program, in most cases, acts as a post-charge mechanism. That is, after a youth has been charged by the police with a criminal offence, the crown prosecutor will determine whether the case will be addressed in court, or through alternative measures. A social focus placed on the notion of community based crime prevention accompanied by the overwhelming success rate of the alternative measures process, has resulted in the establishment of

numerous Youth Justice Committees across the region and province. In fact, five Youth Justice Committees now operate in Region 5 including Strathmore, Didsbury, Drumheller Valley, Big Country (Acme, Linden and Three Hills), and Hanna.

Recently, a new form of alternative measures labelled the "Community Justice Forum" or "Family Group Conferencing," has emerged and is gaining tremendous popularity. The idea behind the Community Justice Forum involves using alternative measures as a pre-charge mechanism as opposed to waiting until a formal charge has been laid. The Community Justice Forum operates under a philosophy to repair the harm that has been done and to prevent unwanted behaviour from happening in the future. The Youth Justice Committee process and Community Justice Forum process represent powerful crime prevention strategy that greatly assists the court system and the youth, families and communities it serves.

According to the National Crime Prevention Centre, "it is the people who live, work and play in a community who best understand their area's resources, problems, needs and capacities." This is why Alternative Measure Programs such as Youth Justice

Committees and the Community Justice Forum will continue to operate so successfully throughout Region 5. So, congratulations to all of those dedicated community members for your gracious efforts in making this process a success.



The Rosebud Health Foundation's fundraising draw for an exquisite nativity scene just in time for Christmas was made last weekend. John Hodge and his wife Marg were the lucky recipients. More than \$3000 was raised for Rosebud, which funds medical purchases at the local hospital.

RELIGION

Way of Life: Christmas plain and simple !?!

That is what the sign read. But a plain and simple Christmas seems so far from reality. Christmas is a frenzy of activity. It is emotionally straining. It is physically draining. Oh, for a Christmas pure and simple. Yet all my attempts to make it such seem rather contrived and concocted. A Christmas pure and simple seems far away from the reality of my Christmas.

But then comes the voice of the angel which accompanied Jesus' birth, "Fear not! I bring you tidings of exceeding joy which shall be for you and all people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

The words of the angel remind me that God's Son did not arrive into a world that was plain and simple. He was born in a world of political intrigue. A world filled with stresses and strains. A census was required for the government to increase taxation. Under the imposition of a Roman decree everyone was forced to drop what ever they were doing and return to the place of their descendants.

Nor was Jesus' birth plain and simple for Mary and Joseph. They bore the stigma of having

a child out of wedlock, an offence punishable by death back then. Though pregnant, they faced the arduous journey to Bethlehem only to find every suitable place of rest jam packed

full. And there Mary suffered the pains of childbirth. Plain and simple seems far from the reality of the birth of God's Son and our Saviour. Plain and simple doesn't seem to fit the complexity of what God did. The almighty, eternal God, clothing himself in humanity and becoming one of us is so far beyond the human mind's capacity to understand, that

we call it a mystery. "Glorious! Awesome! Wonderful!" seem more appropriate words to describe what God did.

The Word of God, which accompanied Jesus' birth, says, "Fear not! I bring you tidings of exceeding joy which shall be for you and all people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has

been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

Jesus did not come to save people from greater taxation and He did not come to make my Christmas plain and simple. He came into my complex and frenzied world to take away my fear of living in such a world. He came to take away the stuff that makes life in this world so unbearable for us, our sin and our guilt and to give us the hope and joy of salvation. The strains and stresses of life will still be with us, but they no longer need to dominate our life. Exceeding joy and the peace of God became incarnate in the birth of Jesus and are offered as a free gift to

all people who receive it by faith.

Christmas plain and simple?! The first Christmas certainly was not. Mine may not be. But the enduring message of Christmas is. The shepherds didn't need a theologian to explain the message from God. They heard, believed and responded. They went to see this thing the Lord had done. Mary and Joseph didn't need anyone to explain the message God had given them, they simply responded in humble obedient service. The message is so plain and simple that it can be believed by all people regardless of age, culture, social background, or mental capacity. God dwelling in human force. The

Son of God becoming true man to save humanity who for so long had lived in misery under the curse of the Law. This is the plain and simple message which comes to you and me again this Christmas season and abides with us in the dawning of another year under God's grace.

Whether yours is a Christmas plain and simple or something else, I invite you to join the people of God in His house. I invite you to come and hear again the good news of our Saviour's birth and to believe that Jesus is your Saviour. May the Good News of Jesus' birth fill you with exceeding joy and the peace of God.



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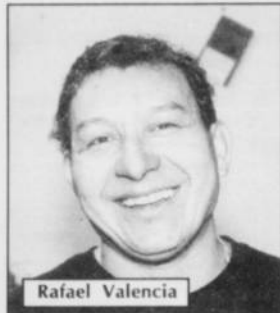
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See You in Church This Sunday!

Faces

a brief glimpse of people and events in our community

Compiled by Nicole Smith



Rafael Valencia

Christmas in El Salvador

Rafael Valencia moved to Canada from El Salvador in 1992, so his Christmas traditions are still fresh in his memory.

He says that Christmas is celebrated on Dec. 24. The little God (Jesus) brings gifts for the children instead of Santa Claus.

Valencia says that Christmas dinner consists of turkey and other treats, but that it is very expensive to buy turkeys around the holiday season. He said that inflation causes them

to increase 200-300% in price. In El Salvador, you don't buy the Butterballs like here. There you buy real live turkeys and have to deal with them yourselves.

Because of the lack of winter in El Salvador, cotton is used as fake snow to decorate the houses. Instead of having the traditional pine or spruce tree for decorating, a coffee tree is used for a Christmas tree.

The family attends midnight mass and then the children open their presents and enjoy a fireworks display.



Noreen Olson

Christmas in Norway

Long, long ago in old Norway, some of the small Trolls that lived in the hills and under the ground became envious of the humans and formed their own world, complete with cattle, farms and churches. Some of them came right into the Norwegians homes and farms where they harassed the humans, but took good care of the horses and cattle. These little people are called "The Nisse" and the Norske try to keep the Nisse happy so they won't cause too much trouble. Every Christmas

Eve a big bowl of porridge is set in the barn for the Nisse. This is no ordinary porridge. It is rommegrot, made from thickened cream and served with lots of melted butter, sugar and cinnamon.

Evergreen decorations are common at Christmas, but never as wreaths. Norwegians arrange them on tables with bits of reindeer moss, candles and red tulips that have been forced into bloom. Juniper branches are sometimes strewn on the front walk and entry to clean snow from shoes and add a lovely fresh smell.

Christmas trees became fashionable in the mid 1800s. The lights on the tree are usually white, relatively large and shaped as candles. At the top of the tree is a glittering star. Heart-shaped baskets and chains of colored paper rings belong on the tree and strings of little Norwegian flags usually hung vertically. A few colored balls, birds and nisses are added as well. Under the tree is the julebuk (Christmas goat) made of straw. Goats are sometimes seen with Santa Claus who, by the way, is much thinner and less colorful than the North American Santa.

On little Christmas Eve, Dec. 23, the house is cleaned from top to bottom and decorations are put up. Sometimes the tree goes up on the 23rd, sometimes on the 24th. On Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) church bells ring between 5 and 6 p.m. and people gather in the churchyard or the church to listen to them. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are spent only with one's own family and usually the main feast is on Christmas Eve. The menu might include: lutefisk or fresh cod, ribs (pork or mutton), sweet and sour cabbage with caraway, boiled potatoes, rutabagas or carrots. There should also be seven different types of cookies to go with the Christmas coffee. After dinner, gifts are exchanged between family members.

On Christmas morning "sock gifts" are opened and dinner might be mutton and cabbage stew or roast pork and lingonberries. Dessert would be a special pudding made with fruit or rice and almonds, never pie. The day after Christmas (Annen Yuledag) the Christmas parties begin. Neighbours visit each other and all those cookies are consumed as is the rullepolse and sylteflesk (rolled seasoned meat and pickled pork), open faced sandwiches, heart-shaped waffles, sursid (pickled herring) and lots of coffee.

On the 20th day of Christmas the church bells are rung again to let everyone know that the season is over. God Yul. Merry Christmas.

The many cultures of Christmas ...

Christmas in Italy

With a last name like Smith, the blonde hair and blue eyes, you'd never think I would have any Italian in my bloodline. Well, I'm half Italian, and it's in the Italian tradition that my family celebrates Christmas each year.

Every Christmas Eve my entire family of about 30 or so gathers together to feast on the fabulous Italian bounty my Greatnana prepares each year. At 90, she is still one of the best cooks ever.

The evening always begins with the homemade wine and conversation flowing. We rejoice in these special times when all of the extended family can come together to celebrate.

The menu for Christmas Eve dinner is always the same. My Greatnana works hard days before preparing buccula, which is a combination of homemade pasta, tomato sauce and salt-water cod. For us kids who don't enjoy buccula, there is always lasagna or spaghetti. Along with the main course, there are plenty of salads, and my personal favorite, homemade donuts. These greasy treats always taste the best with a plate of sugar to dunk them in.

For dessert, we feast on many Italian pastries. There are pitas, which are cakes made with raisins, walnuts and lots of spices. There are also scallis, or honey things, which are pieces of fried pastry bathed in honey and then sprinkled with powdered sugar. And no Christmas would be complete without the pisselles, thin waffle-like cookies cooked in a special press tasting like either chocolate or vanilla.

After dinner, we drink more wine, enjoy more conversation, and then head off to midnight mass. With the church decorated so beautifully, the choir singing and my family all around me, nothing could be more magical. After mass, we go home and open only one present.

On Christmas Day, dinner is always held at my parents' home. This time my mom only has to serve about 15 people. We have turkey and all the North American Christmas delights. My mother usually has everyone numbed with her wicked eggnog that they don't really care too much about when or what we eat.



Nicole Smith



Marg Weaver

Christmas in England

Marg Weaver originates from St. Albans and Hertfordshire in England. She says that there are many customs that are different in England when it comes to celebrating Christmas.

Weaver says you know it's Christmas in England when the houses are decorated with live holly and ivy. She says not many artificial decorations are used. A small tree is also decorated.

The children hang their stockings at the foot of their beds in hopes that Father Christmas will visit them.

She says that a lot of the big stores set up Christmas Toylands especially for children, and Father Christmas and his elves take the children through it.

The Christmas menu consists of a roast goose, instead of turkey, and Christmas pudding that is lit on the fire. The wassle bowl is also served, which is a non-alcoholic Christmas punch.

She says that carollers go door to door and entertain everyone with their Christmas songs. Midnight mass is also something that Weaver takes part in.

"We still try to keep as many of the Christmas traditions as is possible," she said.

Check our
Christmas Extravaganza!!

98 Buy Back "BUYS"
Save \$1000's & \$1000's

98 NEONS auto, air, tilt, warranty, 3 to choose, \$2000 down + \$197.35/mo	\$12,900
98 PLYMOUTH BREEZE air, tilt, cruise, pl, pw, auto, Like New, 3 to choose, WAS \$17,900, \$2000 down + \$239.85/mo	\$15,900
98 CHRYSLER CIRRUS LX1 fully appointed, V6, ABS, 2 to choose WAS \$19,900, \$2000 down + \$262.53/mo	\$17,900
98 DODGE CARAVAN SE 3.3 V6, pl, pw, 4 door, low km, ABS, 3 to choose, \$3000 down + \$332.02/mo	\$21,900
98 DODGE GR. CARAVAN SE 5.3 V6, 4 doors, low km, ABS, 3 to choose, \$3000 down + \$344.70/mo	\$23,900

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95 GMC SLE 4x4 EXT.CAB 350 V8, very clean, 2 to choose one with leather, one with cloth Starting at **\$21,900**

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Holiday Fire Safety Tips: A safe holiday season

Cook Safely

Cooking fires are the most common fires in Alberta homes during Christmas. Cook safely and prevent cooking fires.

Supervise Children

This holiday season; protect your children and your other little visitors from fire. Fascination and curiosity about fire can lead a child to play with matches or lighters.

Christmas Trees

A Christmas tree - real or artificial - can brighten your home, but make sure it isn't a fire hazard. Select a live tree with needles

that don't pull easily from the branches or break when

gently bent. The fresher or more moist a tree, the safer it is. Never use electric lights on metallic trees but use spotlights to illuminate the trees from a safe distance.

Candles

Keep lit candles away from paper decorations and other flammable materials. Snuff candles out when the festivities are over and never let the candles burn down to the bottom. Mount candles on non-combustible bases and place them on a flat surface where they won't be knocked over.

Home Heating

Space heaters provide comfort and heat but they also

increase our fire risk. Remember:

Place all space heaters at least one metre (3 feet) away from anything that can burn.

Turn off or unplug space heaters when you leave the room or go to sleep.

Don't leave children or pets unattended with space heaters.

Check electric space heaters for frayed cords or overheating.

Use only the recommended fuel for liquid-fuelled space heaters. Never use gasoline. Always turn off the heater and let the heater cool down before refuelling.

Ensure fumes from liquid-fuelled space heaters are vented

outdoors. An unvented heater (non-electric) can produce deadly amounts of carbon monoxide.

Fireplaces

A fireplace can offer hours of enjoyment and warmth but remember:

Don't burn paper, wrapping paper or pine boughs. This can cause sparks to drift out of your chimney and ignite your roof or a neighbour's house. Large fires or burning gift-wrap can set the creosote in your chimney on fire.

Have your chimney checked and cleaned by a professional each winter.

Never use gasoline or other flammable liquids to light a fire.

The vapours will explode.

Dispose of ashes in a metal container, stored outside away from combustibles.

Smoke Alarms

Test your smoke alarm by drifting smoke from a snuffed-out candle. The alarm should sound within 20 seconds. Fan away the smoke to silence the alarm.

Clean your smoke alarm by gently vacuuming the inside and wipe the inside of the cover with a damp cloth.

Replace non-working smoke alarms or dead batteries immediately.

Never remove the batteries from smoke alarms.

SUPER 8 MOTEL

Merry Christmas and have a Happy Holiday

Ashley ERIS 4c Age 9

Burt, Enid, Linda, Evelyn, Pauline, Cathy, Kari, Cheryl, Trudy, Ronda, Jackie, Marlene, Brianne

335-8088

A TRADITIONAL

Wishing You A Home Filled With Love And Laughter - All The Good Things Of The Season!

CHRISTMAS

From Gerry, Laurie, Pam, Lisa, Dalene, Kim

Mountain View Credit Union

Didsbury We belong to you.

Laurie, Fuji and the Puff

Wish You the Best This Holiday Season!

MEGABYTE'S SOLUTIONS

We will be closed Christmas and New Year's to enjoy the holidays with our families Didsbury 335-3644 www.megabytes.ab.ca

COUNT ON A GREAT CHRISTMAS

GUTHBERTSON SANDALL chartered accountants

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In touch with business

Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for Your Holiday Season!

Season's Greetings

Celebrate an old-fashioned Christmas surrounded with the ones you love. Good tidings to all our fine patrons.

CO-OP

From the Board of Directors, Management and Staff

OLDS CO-OP FOOD SHOPPING CENTER

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

We're putting on the dog to say, Hope your season's purr-fect in every way. And to all our best friends far and near, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

P & B PET BOARDING LTD.

335-4409

Fire-free holiday on everyone's list

Fire safety may be the last thing on our minds but it should be the first thing on our list. As we celebrate another holiday season with friends and family, we need to take extra care to make it a safe and happy fire-free occasion.

"The 1998 Christmas Fire Safety Campaign is dedicated to increasing awareness for the need to practise fire safety over the busy holiday season. Getting 'wrapped' up in the festivities can result in carelessness," said Tom Makey, Provincial Fire Commissioner. "Hopefully, this campaign will promote the importance of fire safety during the month of December, as well

as, throughout the rest of the year."

During this busy time of year, the risk of home fires increase by 23 per cent. Over the past five years (1993-1997), there were 490 fires, killing seven people, injuring 94 people and resulting in \$15 million worth of property damage. The holiday season is supposed to be a joyous, festive time. Keeping fire safety in mind when planning festivities will reduce the chance that fire will disrupt your holiday plans.

Some fire safety reminders for a safe holiday:

- Never leave frying food or cooking oil unattended on the stove.

- Follow safety practices for space heaters and fireplaces.

- Candles must be used with great caution. Fires related to candles increase four fold during Christmas.

- Keep matches or lighters out of sight and out of reach of children.

- If you smoke, be careful.

- Exercise care with electrical appliances, wiring and light bulbs.

- Test your smoke alarms to ensure they are working properly.

"Following these fire safety reminders over the holiday season will help make the last half of December the safest time of year rather than the most dangerous," added Mr. Makey.

Dear Santa



Dear Mom,

1. I want a nintendo 64
2. A play stasin
3. A jack nipt
4. vido games
5. a clock
6. hockey glove

Love, Joel
Ross Ford 2B

Dear Santa,

I would really like a dirt bike, a sur priz present or a big present. Please let poor people have food and money and for kids toys and give them some presents and a Christmas tree, a home and clothes and pets and peace and a school to lirn but I know you can't bring that. I gust wish you can. I want you to so bad and a bed and pratints and tv and blankits and slides to play with. 1 for each kid.

Love, Kyle Parkin
Ross Ford 3D

NOEL



May the peace of our
Saviour abide in every
heart this holy Season.

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas
and God's Blessing in the New Year.

Gordon & Elmeda Hartmann

Thank You To All Our Customers
For Your Patronage In 1998

MacKay's Processing Plant
335-3677

Words from the Wise
REJOICE!

Let the Miracle
of Christmas
bathe you in
peace, joy and
love for the the
holiday season.

From All
of Us
Mary Ann,
Jeanette,
Judl, Myrna
& Donald



**AURORA
TRAVEL LTD.**

Fax 335-9557 **335-8880**
1909 - 20 Street, DIDSBURY

Life is
a Mutual
affair

It
is that
time of
year when
I wish my
clients & friends
Season's Greetings
and a prosperous
New Year!



Steve Fillmore
335-8987 (bus.)
335-9838 (res.)

The Mutual Group
Facing Tomorrow Together



**SEASON'S
GREETINGS**

To our many fine customers and friends
we extend our very best wishes for a season
filled with joy and peace.

Looking forward to serving you in the New Year!

DUMAX
PETROLEUM SERVICES LTD.
335-4121

Duke & Maxine,
Brad & Darren



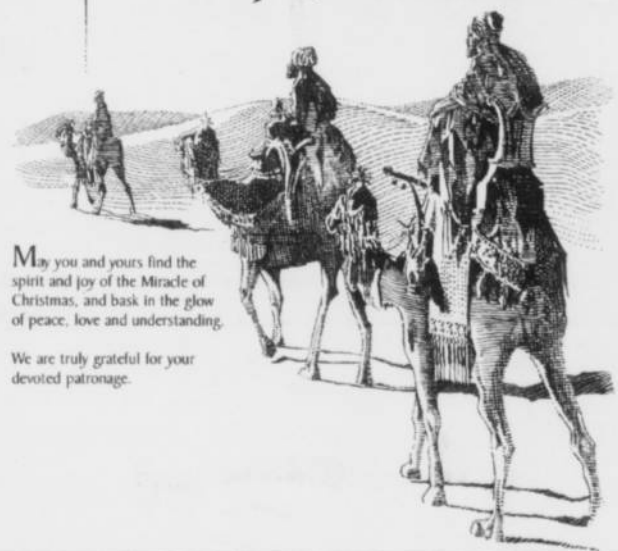
Merry Christmas

**AG
FOODS**
DIDSBURY

From
Al & Charlene



Behold the Glory
of the Season



May you and yours find the
spirit and joy of the Miracle of
Christmas, and bask in the glow
of peace, love and understanding.

We are truly grateful for your
devoted patronage.

Reimer Concrete Industries Ltd.
Management & Staff

So ... Now what's to eat?



**Sheryl
ROTHERT**

Sheryl Rothert likes to provide our readers with good-tasting, nutritious, low-cost, and quick-to-make recipes with easy-to-follow instructions. The recipes are usually quite basic with changes provided to satisfy most tastes. Sheryl has a B.Sc. and B.Ed. in Home Economics with close to 15 years teaching experience. You are welcome to drop off your comments, suggestions, and/or contributions to the Review office.

Smoked Salmon Strata is a variation of the make-ahead brunch dish. Practice this week for Christmas morning or it would be great for New Year's Day also.

Smoked Salmon Strata

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 6 slices thick white bread | 6 eggs |
| 2 tbsp. low-fat margarine | 2 c. milk, 1% |
| 5 oz. smoked salmon | 2 tsp. dill |
| 1 cup red onion, chopped | 2 tbsp. margarine, melted |
| 1/4 lb. cream cheese, cubed | 1/4 tsp. salt |
| 4 cups bread cubes | pepper |

1. Spread bread slices with 1 tbsp. margarine and place that side down in 13" x 9" baking dish.
2. Place salmon slices in single layer over bread.
3. Sauté onions in remaining margarine until soft; sprinkle over salmon.
4. Dot salmon with cream cheese cubes.
5. Top with bread cubes.
6. In large bowl, whisk together eggs, milk, dill and melted margarine.
7. Season mixture with salt and pepper.
8. Pour egg mixture over salmon mixture.
9. Cover and refrigerate for 4 hours or overnight.
10. Bake at 350 degrees F for 35 to 40 minutes, until puffy and golden.

*** Serves 608, immediately.

Tip of the week: Our family enjoys this type of dish for Christmas morning - as it is baking, we tend to open stockings and Christmas oranges.



TASTY TREATS
Crystal Collinge and a couple of her friends work together in a speed contest to make a gingerbread house. It looks like some were enjoying the taste of the building materials more than the actual construction.

Photo By Nicole Smith

A Merry Christmas
to our patrons,
good sports all.
We are delighted
to have you as
our customers.

Thanks
**for the
strokes
folks!**



McCoy's
Mountain View Sports
LTD.

Al, Joyce, Miller,
Elaine & Brent



Sporting
Goods
For All
Seasons

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Didsbury, Alberta T0M 0W0



... while visions of sugar plums danced
in their heads

**WEBB'S
BULK FOOD**

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(next door to Video Update)

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MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00 am to 5:30 pm
SATURDAY 9:00 am to 10:30 pm

CATCH THE SPIRIT!

Wishing you
and yours a
healthy and
happy
holiday
season!



College Green
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Dr. Scott Holder
Dr. Richard James
and Staff



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& Family

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May the hope and happiness of the
Christmas season flow into your life.
Thank you for making our season
a very special one.

Holiday Greetings

May you and your family enjoy a happy and joyous holiday.

From Dick & Valeda, Rick & Dena, John and David



**Dick's Auto
Service**

"for all your automotive needs"

SEASON'S GREETINGS

We hope your Christmas
is filled with love, warmth
and happiness. Your continuing
patronage has made this
Christmas a wonderful one for us.



From The Staff And Management Of The

A&W
Restaurant
Olds



RESTAURANT

Dine In • Take Out • Drive Thru
5114 - 46th STREET, OLDS • HWY. 27



Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,

I would like a remote control car. Please how does your sleigh fly? How do your elves make toys? I have been a very good boy. Merry Christmas Santa.

Love, Ricky
1C Ross Ford

Dear Santa,

I've been good. I would like a whole set of x-man water wars. How is the North Pole? How are you, Santa? Is Mrs. Claus doing good?

Love, Kale
1C Ross Ford

Dear Santa,

I want to know how cold it is in the North Pole. For Christmas, may I please have my two front teeth. I have been very good.

Love, Melissa
1C Ross Ford

Dear Santa,

I want a remote control car and I would like an ice cream maker. How do your reindeer fly? How do you make the toys? I have been good to my brother and my sister.

Love, Jordyn
1C Ross Ford

Dear Santa,

How cold is the North Pole? How do make your toys? I am a good boy. How do the reindeer fly? May I please have a watch?

Love, Lee
1C Ross Ford

Dear Santa,

I love you. May I please a snowboard? How is Rudolph? Are you still using the same old sleigh?

Love, Zachary
1C Ross Ford

Dear Santa,

May I please have a reindeer? How is Mrs. Santa? I would like to give Mrs. Santa some milk and cookies with oatmeal and chocolate.

Love, Katrina
1C Ross Ford

Dear Santa,

Please may I have a Lego train? Do you have a pet pen-quin? How does your sleigh fly?

How do you make all those toys at the same time? How do you get them all in your sack? It must be a pretty big sac.
Love, Blake
1C Ross Ford

Dear Santa,

I want a C.D. player please. I wonder what it looks like at the North Pole. I love you! I wonder how the sleigh flies. I wonder how the elves make all the toys. Merry Christmas, Santa.

Love, Allison
1C Ross Ford

Dear Santa,

I want a C.D. player please. I love you. What does it look like at the North Pole?

Love, Marlayna
1C Ross Ford

Dear Santa,

How is it cold up the North Pole? I have been good. I do what Mom tells me. May I please have a teddy bear? How are you doing? How are the reindeer? I love you Santa Clause!

Love, Michelle
1C Ross Ford

How do the elves work at the toy shop? I love Santa and Mrs. Claus. I have been a very good little girl.

Love, Jessica
1C Ross Ford

Dear Santa,

I would like a snowboard please. What do you and Mrs. Claus look like? What is the name of your favorite elf? Could you send me a picture of Rudolph?

Love, Kyle
1C Ross Ford

Dear Santa,

How is the North Pole? I would like a Lego maniac please. I would like the whole

set. I have been a good boy. How does Rudolph's nose shine. Merry Christmas Santa.

Love, Topher
1C Ross Ford

Dear Santa,

I would like a monster truck please. What do the reindeer eat? How do you make the toys? I have been very good!

Love, Jesse
1C Ross Ford

Dear Santa,

How are the reindeer doing? How do the elfs make toys? I want the Small Soldiers movie. I wonder how the reindeer fly?

Love, Adam
1C Ross Ford

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Greetings to all our friends...
We thank you for your patronage!

We look forward to serving you in 1998. Marlin McMann & Staff of
McMANN AUTOBODY

Complete Collision Repair & Refinishing.
Insurance Claims

#8 Co-op Road
Didsbury, AB. Bus. 335-3663



Best Wishes to all our friends
in the community

Gordie Reimer & Staff

REIMER
INTERNATIONAL INC.

335-9500



*Glory to the
Newborn King*

May the miracle of Christmas be yours to cherish,
filled with the gifts of happiness, family and friends.
We feel gifted to count you among ours.

A joyous Noel to one and all.

Rick and Valerie

The Art Circle

1912 - 20 Street, Didsbury
Locally Owned & Operated
335-4869



Wishing you the best this season

Beverley, Betty & Joy at

**The Tea Cozy
& Gift Shoppe**

335-8090
Didsbury



**May Your Days
Be Merry
And Bright**

From our family to yours, we extend heartfelt
thanks for your loyal patronage, and pledge to
work even harder in the coming year to keep
your friendship and trust.

From The Svendsen's And Staff at

DIDSBURY Fas Gas

PH. 335-4661

Season's Greetings
from **MOUNTAIN VIEW
ELECTRONICS**

In the New Year, we look forward
to serving our many
customers from our
new location in the

**VICTORIA
SQUARE MALL**

To the Ratepayers of Mountain View

The Christmas Season is a time for families to
come together to enjoy good fellowship and
hospitality and to renew old friendships. It is
our hope that your Christmas will be filled
with Peace, Love and Joy, and that the New
Year will bring Health and Happiness to you
and your families.

Sincerely,
Pat James, Reeve



Letters to Santa

I've got a Christmas tree. Please bring me lipstick and nail polish.
Love, Andy (Will's little sister)

Dear Santa,

How are you and the Rudolph? Thank you for Lego last year. May I please have a Calgary Flames hockey jersey?

Love, Will
1A Ross Ford

Dear Santa,

How are you and Rudolph? Thank you for gifts. May I please have a bell.

Love, Aaron Bunch
1A Ross Ford

Dear Santa,

How are you and Rudolph? Thank you for presents. May I please have a remote control car. Mom wants an angel plate.

Love, Shaun S.
1A Ross Ford

Dear Santa,

How are you and the reindeer? Thank you for the toys that you brought last year. May I please have a living reef. I am turing to be gud bat some taimes I be bad. I am turing my bat, Santa.

Love, Alana Craig
1A Ross Ford

Dear Santa,

How are you and Rudolph? Thank you for presents. May I please have robin's Forrest? Rudolph, ho ho ho. How are

you doing Rudolph?

Love, Erik
1A Ross Ford

Dear Santa,

How are you and your reindeer? Thank you for the Barbie that you brought last year. May I please have Barbie makeup? I have been good.

Love, Ashley
1A Ross Ford

Dear Santa,

How are you and the Mrs. Claus? Thank you for the presents. May I please have some makeup?

Love, Samantha
1A Ross Ford

Dear Santa,

How are you and Rudolph? Thank you for toys. May I please have a walkman?

Love, Brandon
1A Ross Ford

Dear Santa,

How are you and the reindeer? Thank you for the tate. May I please have a Christmas tree. I have

been god. Is Rudolph being god? He dsrvs a praset. I love Rudolph the red nos rander.

Love, Kevin
1A Ross Ford

Dear Santa,

How are you and the reindeer? Thank you for Barbie. May I please have some nail polish.

Love, Alex
1A Ross Ford

Dear Santa,

How are you and the reindeer? Thank you for the spiderman. May I please have a godzillu.

Love, Curtis
1A Ross Ford

Dear Santa,

How are you and the rein-

deer? Thank you for the toys you bragut. This year may I please have a coplareh. I have been good.

Love, Justin Gebers
1A Ross Ford

Dear Santa,

How are yow and the reindeer? Thank you for the toys last year. I don't want anything from you because my parents are getting me lots of toys.

Love, Chris
1A Ross Ford

Dear Santa,

How ar you and your reindeer? Thank you for the sky dancer that you brought last year. May I please have a Barbie for Christmas.

Love, Jennifer
1A Ross Ford

SENDING WARM HOLIDAY WISHES YOUR WAY



Here's hoping your holiday delivers loads of love, laughter and cheer.

Thank you for visiting us this past year.
Season's Greetings to all our wonderful customers!

Margo, Bill & Staff at

WARD VALUE DRUG MART

All Your Family Needs

Thank You for your continued patronage over the last 20 years
Winner of December 15th Early Bird Draw was Carol Krammer. Congratulations!

335-3307



Treasuring the precious gift of friendship this holiday season.

Season's Greetings!

Myra, Albert, Julie, Amy & Nic

Ribbons & Bow Gifts
335-8840
2023 19 Ave., Didsbury

SEASON'S GREETINGS

May all your hopes and dreams come true this holiday season and beyond.

Many thanks and merry Christmas!

from the staff at the
ROYAL BANK
Didsbury Branch

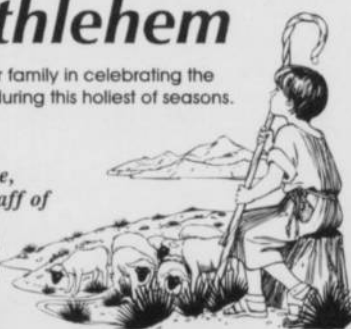


O' Little Star Of Bethlehem

We'd like to join your family in celebrating the Miracle of His birth during this holiest of seasons.

Thank You for your patronage, from the Management and Staff of

FEEG'S PROPANE LTD.



Christmas Blessings

May the spirit of the season fill your heart with peace and contentment.

Lowell, Heidi, Lukas & Levi of

GRASSE LUMBER SALES

Wish You A Merry Christmas
As We Celebrate Christ's Birth.



Blessings

On this Holy Christmas, may you find a child's hope for tomorrow, a child's faith in his fellow being, a child's belief in the future, and a child's trust in God's love.

Craigs Clothing & Dry Goods

556-3717

5102 - 50 Ave, Olds





Dear Santa,

How are you and Mrs. Clause? And the elves? Are you good? I want a cat or dog. I will leave some cookies and milk for you. I will leave you some carrots for the reindeer. Well, I have to go. Bye.

**Love, Jesse
Ross Ford 2B**

Dear St. Nicholas,

For Christmas I want the gus small soldiers.

**From, Dave
Ross Ford 2B**

Dear Santa,

Ples can I hav a r2b2 for Christmas, and a rastrack and metelmelder and a rei moterbick, a pokamom toy and a game.

**From, Nathan
Ross Ford 2B**

Dear Santa,

How are you? I would like these things for Christmas please: a walkie talkie and Skipper doll. I would also like a mini skidoo. My cat Luna would like something too. Thank you for the presents last year. Did you like the cookies and milk we left for you?

**Love, Bailey Baerg
Ross Ford 2B**

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa and Mrs. Claus and Rudolph,

Thank you for the presents last year. I love them. Moon shoes, big feet, hatchers and lanrer, Godzilla tent and sleeping bag, footlong Godzilla toy, Godzilla punching bag, big ball, and a Grand Champin. I love you.

**Love, Paige
Ross Ford 2B**

Dear Santa,

I would want a cd plaer and a ton of cds. I would want a Nike almin stik. I would want a visr for my hke helmit. I would want a raond sawnd. I would want a brtbik hemit plies.

**From, Nick
Ross Ford 2B**

Dear Santa,

I would like cids golf kluds and a snoboerd. A be re sata. I hop uo have a gob Christmas.

**From, Tyler
Ross Ford 2B**

Dear Santa,

How is Mrs. Claus? How are you? How is Rudolph? How are the elves? How is Dasher and Dancer and Comet and Cupid and Doner and Blizen and Prancer and Vicsin. Thank you for the presents last year. Could I please tugen fun. What are the elves names?

**Yours trouilly, Ashley
Nussbaum
Ross Ford 2B**

Dear Santa and Mrs. Claus,

May I have a Spice Girl Barbie. May I have a net. One mowr thing. A qup.

**By, Takisha
Ross Ford 2B**

Dear Santa,

How are you? Could you please get me thes things for Christmas. A wakly takesy and some thing for my cat Tigr. And a siperdall. And some kind of a comepotr. And mady non-no kitty. How are year randeer. I hope you have a goob Christmas.

**Love from, Alisha
Ross Ford 2B**

Dear Santa,

How are you and Mrs. Claus? Thank you for the presents that you gave to me last year. thes is wait I want. A Nitendo 64. I hope you have a good Christmas.

**Love,
Kristine
Ross Ford 2B**

Dere Santa,

How is the elves? How is Rudolph? Could you

please get me: a football game for supper nintendo, a Detroit redwing helmet, Lost World traler. I hope you can get one of these things.

**Love, Ryan Hunter
Ross Ford 2B**

Dear Santa!!

This is what I want for Chrismas: a Nike stick and a lot of other stuf. I hope Rudolph is not sick and Mrs. Claus. Thank you for all of thos presents that you gave to me last Chrismas. Could I please have a Play Staishon.

**Love, Brayden
Ross Ford 2B**

Dear Santa,

For Christmas could you please bring me a real live Babe

who talks and knows time. Thank you for bringing the presents last year. I relly aperseadad them.

**Love, Linden
Ross Ford 2B**

Dear Santa,

I wold have a helicopter and I wold have a mochol wat is big war cis go in to the mochol and a hise mostrau and I wot a gotcar.

**Love, Trent
Ross Ford 2B**

Dear Santa,

I what a intendo sixde four and a army clothes weth army wepins.

**Be, Desmond
Ross Ford 2B**

MERRY CHRISTMAS

from Dr. David Chorkwa and Staff at the
Didsbury Dental Centre
335-3855

In This Holy Season

May you and your family be blessed with the true spirit of Christmas.

"God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all."
— John 1:5

Wishing a bright and merry Christmas to all.

Best Wishes From
Jack, Ruby, and Staff

**Meyer's
Men's Wear**

Olds, AB.



We Wish You
A Merry
Christmas
And a Happy
New Year!

Many thanks for
your loyal support.

From Ross & Karen
Campbell's
Plumbing & Heating
Didsbury
335-4745 Bus.
335-3858 Res.



DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

Have fun when you go out for New Year's Eve. Get together with friends and party.

Just remember, if you're drinking even a little —DON'T DRIVE!

If you want to drink, appoint a designated driver who'll remain sober to drive everyone home. Or stay over where you're partying. Or call a cab to get you home.

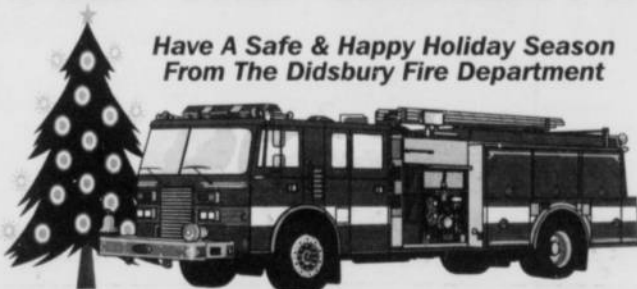
We want to see you happy and healthy in 1998!

The Didsbury Inn

Didsbury
335-3022

LIGHT UP SAFELY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Have A Safe & Happy Holiday Season
From The Didsbury Fire Department



PEACE on EARTH

May the peace that passes understanding begin in each heart and encompass the whole world at Christmas.

Our wish for you is peace and happiness the whole year through.

from the staff at
HILDEBRAND
CHEVROLET OLDSMOBILE CADILLAC
YOUR HOMETOWN CHEVROLET DEALER
1-800-529-0103 or local 556-3371

HWY 27 WEST
X
HILDEBRAND

CLASSIFIEDS

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- 02 Births,
- 03 Birthday,
- 04 Engagement,
- 05 Weddings
- 06 Obituaries
- 07 Card of Thanks
- 08 Prayer Corner
- 09 Memoriam
- 10 Graduation

07 CARD OF THANKS

MARY ANN WEIGEL and family would like to thank all the family and friends for their loving support in the recent passing of our beloved Jack. All your kindness, caring and flowers, baking and donations will never be forgotten. 36-1t

09 MEMORIAM

IN MEMORY OF Ted Nelson, who passed away December 23, 1992. Those whom we love go out of sight, But never out of mind; They are cherished in the hearts Of those they leave behind. Dearly remembered by Jacqueline and Shannon 36-1t

09 MEMORIAM

NELSON, TEDDY ROSS: In loving memory of Teddy who passed away December 23, 1992.

It's sad to walk the road alone,
Instead of side by side,
But to all there comes a moment,
When ways of life divide.
You gave me years of happiness,
Then came sorrow and tears.
But you left me with beautiful memories,
I'll treasure through the years.
Within my heart I'll always keep,
A special place for you.
Lovingly remembered by your wife
and best friend, Jessie. 36-1t



Be one of the
blessed few ...
Become
a volunteer!

Get involved in
your community.

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED DIRECTORY

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Phone: (403) 335-3301
Fax: (403) 335-8143

04 AUTOS

WANT TO SELL your 1994 or newer 4 X 4 truck or sport utility? We buy clean low/average mileage 4 X 4 trucks and sport utilities. Nafta Trading 1-800-791-8120, www.globalautolink.com. awna

07 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

VENDING ROUTES SALE! Dec. 1 to 30. Huge savings. Act now! Save on this year's income tax. Limited distributorships available. Phone for free information. Eagle Profit Systems 1-800-387-2274 or 604-501-8363 (Dept. 1297). awna

EXCEPTIONAL REAL ESTATE investment opportunity! Use other people's money to leverage stable long term growth. Perfect retirement investment. Low risk/high return. Tax deferral. Phone 1-800-347-2540. awna

INTERESTED PERSON/PERSONS to operate a semi-private year round restaurant, bar and banquet facility. Excellent opportunity. Submit resume to: Box 3221, Fort Saskatchewan, AB, T8L 2T2. awna

FOR SALE well established painting company in a busy community. Van, equipment, contracts and much more. For more information phone 403-349-5660. awna

08 CAREER TRAINING

COUNSELLOR TRAINING Institute of Canada offers on-campus and correspondence courses toward a diploma in counselling practice to begin this month. Free catalogue, call 24 hours, 1-800-665-7044. awna

08 CAREER TRAINING

BE A SUCCESSFUL Writer. Write for money and pleasure with our unique hom-study course. You get individual tuition from professional writers on all aspects of writing - romances, short stories, radio and TV scripts, articles and children's stories. Send today for our free book. Toll free: 1-800-267-1829, fax: 1-613-749-9551. The Writing School, 3146-38 McArthur Ave., Ottawa, ON K1L 6R2. awna

EMPLOYMENT AVAILABLE for our Class 1 graduates. Alliance Training also offers heavy equipment, oilfield safety and in-house financing. Call us 1-888-844-0609. E-mail: atg@cadvision.com. awna

09 CHILD CARE

ABC CHILDCARE SERVICES

- Gov't approved day home
 - Quality childcare provider
 - Crafts and entertainment supplied
 - Lunches and snacks provided
 - Reasonable daily hourly rates
 - Evening sitting also available
- Book now for your child's comfort and security.
Call Jenn at 335-9373.
(New Year's Eve overnight service available)

10 COMING EVENTS

NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE. Collins Brothers band. Buffet at 8 p.m. Dance at 9 p.m. Midnight buffet. Tickets \$20/person. Sandy 337-2436. Mary Ann 335-4770. At the Lone Pine Hall. East along #582. 36-4t

HORSE BREEDERS and Owners Conference, Capri Centre, Red Deer, Jan. 9 - 10, 1999. North America's Premiere Horse Conference. Fourteen internationally recognized speakers. Topics: Nutrition, health care, training, reproduction, behavior, business. Cost \$75. Contact: Horse Industry Section, Alberta Agriculture, 403-948-8538. Airdrie: 403-427-5096 Edmonton. awna

13 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

RELIABLE BABYSITTER needed for shiftwork immediately. Call 335-4415 and leave a message. References required. 36-1t

Janitor wanted for evening work in Didsbury. Approximately three hours per night. Fax resumes to 556-1314 or phone 556-2833 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. 37-2t

Chinook's Edge School Division #73

is currently seeking an individual to assist our journeyman plumber in the maintenance of the heating and ventilation systems for our schools. A mechanical aptitude is a must and some experience in plumbing and heating or other maintenance would be an asset.

Send resumes with relevant experiences and references to:

Herman de Wolde,
Facilities Manager Mech/Elect
4404 - 42 Avenue
Innisfail, Alberta
T4G 1P6

Applications will be received until January 8, 1999. Only those short listed will be contacted.

13 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MANAGEMENT POSITIONS in east central Alberta. Full service independent agricultural retail seeks highly self motivated individuals. Successful candidate will be responsible for all day-to-day operations of facilities involved in dry, liquid and anhydrous ammonia fertilizers; full line pesticides; bulk and bagged seed; consulting services; feed and vet supplies; custom application; rental equipment. This individual will develop and administer guidelines for sales, account collection, cash flow, margin analysis, staff recruitment with performance appraisals, capital and operating budgets, client requirements, new business opportunities. Qualifications: Distinct managerial and organizational skills; team player with excellent communication ability, commitment to productivity and profitability; advanced agronomic/agricultural background. Competitive salary, benefit package and share options available. Application deadline: December 31, 1998. Send resume with attached references and expected salary range, in confidence to: Box 16, Irma, AB, T0B 2H0. awna

13 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

TORNADO FLARE SYSTEMS (Canada) Inc. is currently looking for young, aggressive people experienced in welding who are interested in apprenticeship. We also have openings for 2nd and 3rd year apprentices, journeymen and "B" pressure welders, pipefitters and labourers that we can train for other positions. Shop location is N.E. of Stettler. Good working conditions and a medical plan. Please fax resume to 403-883-2550 or mail to: Box 1390, Stettler, AB, T0C 2L0. Attention: Bob Rajewski. awna

LAKESIDE FARM Industries Ltd. is currently seeking a Health Technician and Pen Rider (salary range \$10. to \$13.50/hour) for a 75,000 head feedlot. Duties include recognizing and treating sick cattle. An AHT certificate will be considered an asset, but is not essential. Please forward resume to: Lakeside Farm Industries Ltd., Box 800, Brooks, AB, T1R 1B7. Fax 403-362-8231. awna

REALESTATE AGENCY looking for sales person to participate in real estate business. Willing to share operation. John Golka or Jim Hall 403-888-2274, Hardisty, Alberta. awna

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN required. Progressive Chrysler dealership in northern Alberta requires immediately a licensed automotive technician. Top pay and benefits package offered. Will relocate successful candidate if required. Chrysler experience is an asset. Send resume: Peyre Chrysler, Box 1140, High Prairie, AB, T0G 1E0. Attention: Dennis L. or call 403-523-5007. awna

REQUIRED EXPERIENCED person for expanding farm equipment dealership. Excellent benefit package, long term employment. Vanee Farm Centre, 510 - 36 St. N., Lethbridge, AB, T1H 5H6. awna

AUTOBODY TECHNICIAN REQUIRED. Full-time position. Please fax resume to 1-403-778-2918 or call 1-403-778-6663. awna

THE CALGARY CONVENTION & Visitors Bureau requires a full-time Coordinator, Member Publications to produce stakeholder publications, speeches/presentation materials reports and special projects. A journalism/communications background with Mac desktop experience required. Apply by Jan. 1 to: Pat Bell, Calgary Convention & Visitors Bureau, 200, 237 - 8 Ave. S.E., Calgary, AB, T2G 0K8. Fax 403-262-3809. awna

JOURNEYMAN FLOOR LAYER, Edson, Alberta. \$60,000. to \$80,000. Good working conditions. Fax resume 403-723-6363. Phone 403-723-3101. Hardwood, laminate or ceramic experience an asset. awna

Ross Ford Elementary School
Requires a
Teaching Assistant
for a Special Needs
Student (one on one)
-Mornings Mon. to Fri.
-Send/Fax/Deliver resumes
to: G. Spence Principal
Deadline is Jan. 6, 1999.

CLASSIFIEDS

13 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Receptionist/Office Clerk

Westward Products Ltd. (formerly Kuelker's Mfg) of Didsbury requires a part-time receptionist and office clerk. The successful candidate will perform a wide variety of office duties including general office and receptionist duties, accurate computer data entry, and filing. The successful candidate will work with and report to our accountant/office manager, and will also work with our engineer and buyers. Hours worked will be from 4-6 hours most weekdays during regular business hours.

Familiarity with computers, book-keeping and manufacturing is desired but not essential. A pleasant disposition and telephone personality is required.

Please forward resumes, with salary expectations, in strict confidence by January 5, 1999 to:

The President - Westward Products Ltd.
P.O. Box 2130
Didsbury, AB, T0M 0W0

Thank you for your interest, however only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

13 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

30 MISCELLANEOUS

Specials On HOT TUBS & SATELLITES

All sizes of hot tubs & satellites including 18" RCA VCII + Boards & Programming

Rip Van Winkles
Olds 556-6616

10-yr

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34 PERSONALS

TAKE A RISK on romance. An old fashioned complete dating service. Debi's, phone 403-644-3772 or write: Box 2254, Strathmore, AB, T1P 1K2. awna

LOSE WEIGHT like crazy! Call 24 hours 1-888-741-3707 toll free awna. PSORIASIS SUFFERERS - For more information on Psoriasis and a new treatment - EXOREX. Call the EXOREX Psoriasis help line. 1-800-839-6739, www.exorexcanada.com. awna

35 PETS

CHRISTMAS PUPPIES. German Shepard Cross Rottweiler. \$100. Five weeks old. Ready to go before Christmas. Three females, two males. Call 335-9244. 36-2t

36 REAL ESTATE

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

37 RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

REC VEHICLES Top Dollar paid for used RV's (clean & good condition) Complete parts & service (service & warranty to all makes and models). New & used RV sales. RV Hail Damage Repair Specialists. Complete repair and parts service for horse and stock trailers. Phone for estimates. OLDS Leisure Products Ltd. 556-7200.

37 RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

TOP DOLLAR PAID for late model RVs. We will pay you immediately for late model, good condition, clean RVs. Woody's RV World, Calgary. 1-800-531-4695, 403-240-1212. awna

40 SERVICES

PIANO, KEYBOARD, and saxophone lessons for all ages. Experienced enthusiastic teacher. Call Sarah at 335-8970. 36-4t

KITCHEN AND BATH cabinet making and bathroom finishing, plus roofing. Call 342-6492 Red Deer or Vance at 335-6023. 37-4t

40 SERVICES

CRIMINAL RECORD? Canadian pardon seals record. US waiver removes risk of arrest, deportation, property confiscation. 1-800-347-2540. Uncontested Divorce? Separation Agreements? Incorporation? Fast, simple, inexpensive. 1-800-320-2477. awna

43 TRAVEL

WHERE FANTASY becomes reality! 21 day tour March 2/1999. New Zealand, Australia and Fiji. Hosted by local reps, as well as fully escorted tour guides. \$4999. Call now before space sells out. 5th Avenue Travel, 1-877-667-9776. awna

ZENDER FORD Mercury Sales Ltd. requires an experienced parts person. Excellent salary and benefits including profit sharing. Relocation assistance available to the right person. 2nd or 3rd year apprentices considered. Mail or fax resume to: Zender, Box 5000, Spruce Grove, AB, T7X 2Y3. Attention: Mr. Dave King, Parts Manager. Fax 403-962-6943 (no telephone inquiries please). awna

17 FEED AND SEED

ROUNDAHAY BALES for sale. Cheap. Free delivery, self unloading. Call 403-843-6380. No Sunday calls please. awna

WANTED HEATED Canola and heated or off grade wheat oats barley and peas also wheat and barley. Wanham Valley Feeds Ltd., toll free 1-888-694-2464. awna

FOR SALE round alfalfa and grass mix hay, also straw. Buying good hay and straw. Delivery available. Phone 403-349-5067.

WANTED: Feed grains, barley, wheat, etc. Also sell feed pellets. Please contact: Newco Commodities Ltd., Picture Butte, AB, 1-403-732-4394. We provide our own trucks. awna

18 FOR RENT

FOR RENT: New York style Loft (2900 sq. feet) In the Old Lutheran Church. Includes: Fridge with Ice Maker, Gas Stove, Dishwasher, Garborator, Vacuum with Hose & Power head, Jet tub, Snooker table, Washer & Dryer hook-up. \$850 per month + 1/2 of the Utilities. Non-Smoker & No Pets (Preferred) D/D & Good References required. Call Carley at 335-4663. 36-1t

3 BEDROOM townhouse, 1 1/2 baths, newly decorated, utilities not included, no pets. Damage deposit of \$300. \$485/month. 335-2347. 39-10t

DIDSBURY MANOR
1706-22 Ave.
3 Bdr. Townhouses
Private Yard, Cable,
W/D Hookups, \$550/mth.
Call 335-2027

FOR RENT, 2 Bedroom house 3 miles west + 1/2 mile south of Didsbury. \$550 a month + \$50.00 Damagae deposit. Utilities included, No pets. Interested parties phone 335-4118 After 5p.m. 36-1t

19 FOR SALE

FOR SALE: One sofa and chair. In good condition. Asking \$150 or best offer. Please call 335-4255 after 5 p.m. 36-1t

Firewood-Split Spruce \$125 a cord or \$6 a bundle. 335-4592. 38-3t

FOR SALE: Washer/Dryer set. Excellent condition \$350. Call 335-8825. 36-1t

MONTREAL CANADIENS TICKETS for Edmonton's game on Dec. 29 and Calgary's game on Dec. 31. These tickets are for rural Alberta fans only. Call Just Tickets, 1-800-304-4321. awna

SAWMILL \$4895. Saw logs into boards, planks, beams. Large capacity. Best sawmill value anywhere. Free information 1-800-566-6899. Norwood Sawmills, R.R. 2, Kilworthy, ON, P0E 1G0. awna

LORD OF The Dance Premier front row tickets for January 23, 3 p.m. in Edmonton. These limited tickets are for rural Alberta fans only. Call Just Tickets 1-800-304-4321. awna

40' X 56' X 14' FARM SHOP, straight wall, galvalume cladding, \$10,500. Coloured cladding, doors, windows, labour and freight extra. Mastercraft Building Systems Ltd. 1-800-822-1836, Calgary 403-269-4117. awna

ATTENTION DSS OWNERS. Viper cards, \$399. European V2 cards, \$375. Blackjack cards, \$349. Warranty available. Systems available starting at \$399. Call now 403-914-5772; 403-439-0300. awna

26 LIVESTOCK FOR SALE
PUREBRED CHAROLAIS BULLS. Good selection includes polled, horned and red. Some are sired by full French bulls. Wilf Neilson, 403-884-2293 or 403-884-2391. awna

28 MANUFACTURED HOMES

SAVE THOUSANDS! No reasonable offer refused on new showhome clearance. Quality Triple E and Regent Homes must go. Ask about "Spring Delivery Program". Pleasant Homes, 403-962-0238. awna

ALBERTA CUSTOM HOMES - Best name in manufactured homes. Surprise Sale. As low as \$42,900. Alberta Custom Homes the Home Team. Just south of Woody's, Red Deer, 1-800-347-5590. awna
NEW 16 X 80, 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, fridge, stove, vinyl siding, \$43,900. Call Ridgewood Homes, Red Deer, 1-800-797-5714; Calgary, 1-800-797-5717; Edmonton, 1-403-470-5660 (collect). awna

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I would like to thank my customers for making 1998 a very successful year. I was involved in the sale of more than 36 properties. Thanks again to all my Vendors and Purchasers. Looking forward to serving you in the New Year. "Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year"

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Office 556-8835 Pager 229-8599

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The Program

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND EVENTS



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Proud to be
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community.

"we do the little things... for you."



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Didsbury

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sharing a double, includes
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FAX (403) 335-8143

UPCOMING EVENTS

DIDSBURY

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The Knox United Church will be holding their Christmas service on Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The Zion Evangelical Missionary Church will be holding their Christmas Eve Cantata on Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome.



DIDSBURY

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

St. Cyprian's Anglican Church will be holding two services on Christmas Eve. A family service will be held at 4 p.m. with no communion, and another service will be held at 8 p.m. with communion. Everyone welcome.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The Redeemer Lutheran Church will be holding their Christmas Day Service at 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 25 with holy communion. Everyone welcome.

ONGOING EVENTS

CARSTAIRS

RECYCLING DEPOT

Carstairs Lion's Recycling Depot is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.

CARSTAIRS T.O.P.S.

(Take Off Pounds Sensibly) welcomes new members. Meetings 7 p.m. Monday evenings at Carstairs Church of God. For info call Jean 637-3753 or Natalie 337-2351.

DIDSBURY

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

Overeaters Anonymous, Carstairs Catholic Parish, 302 - 11 Ave., Carstairs, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Further info. 337-3619 (Teri).

DIDSBURY TOPS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly! Come and join us every Wednesday evening. For more info call Bev at 335-9803 or Kirsten 335-3370.

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

Didsbury Environmental Advisory Board meets once every two months at the Town Office at 7 p.m. For info. call Town Office at 335-3391.

TOY LIBRARY

Kidding Around Parents Club Toy Library: Tuesdays and Saturdays 10 - 11:30 a.m. at the Anglican Church Hall basement 2037 - 24 Ave. New members always welcome. More info call Pearl at 335-4787.

CANSURMOUNT

You are not alone. Cansurmount & Reach to Recovery, Olds, Didsbury and surrounding communities have a local group of trained volunteers who offer support to families and patients who have cancer. Please call 335-3341 for more information.

AA

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. Fridays 8:30 p.m. at the Masonic Hall, Didsbury, 20 Ave. and 21 St. For information call Kim at 335-9645 or Rick at 335-9525.

TIME OUT

Mom's Time Out and Dads Too. Every Monday (except holidays) 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.. Nominal babysitting fee. Redeemer Lutheran Church. Ph. 335-4123.

DIDSBURY

KING HIRAM LODGE

King Hiram Lodge #21 has its regular meetings at 8 p.m. every 2nd Tuesday of the month. For info. call Hans Lucas at 337-2250.

O.E.S. MEETING

St. Hilda Chapter #27 O.E.S. has its regular meetings at 8:00 p.m. every 3rd Tuesday of the month. For info. call Marge Stecker at 335-4281.

DIDSBURY MUSEUM

Won't you join us at the Museum on the 1st Thursday of every month from 2 - 4 p.m. for coffee. Everyone is welcome. We have lots to see, take a look back in history. There is no charge but of course donations are always welcome. The museum is also open on Wed., Thurs. and Fri. from 2 - 5 p.m. weekly. We're located at 2118 - 21st Ave. For more info. call 335-9295.

RECYCLING DEPOT

Didsbury Lions Recycle Centre open Saturdays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Accepting newspaper, office papers, magazines, junk mail, plastic milk jugs (please clean). Phone 335-8193. Use outside bins.

CASH BINGO

Didsbury Elks Cash Bingo every Tuesday. Doors open 6:00 p.m., Nickel Bingo at 6:45. Regular bingo at 7:30 p.m. Didsbury Elks Hall.

LIONS

Lions bartending service, call Rudy 335-9191. Lions grill rental, call Jim, 335-8193, 335-9936.

PLAYGROUP

Didsbury Playgroup ongoing preschool registration, \$50/ month. For more info call Joanne at 335-9414 or Mary Lynne at 335-8512.

INFORMATION

Mountain View La Leche League, a group which offers information and support for breastfeeding mothers. We also meet the 3rd Tuesday evenings of each month. Phone 335-8864 or 335-2331 for information and meeting location.

BEAVER'S

Beaver's Monday 7-8 p.m. at Eldon Foote Hall. Kids 5 to 7 years old, boys and girls welcome.

AL-ANON

Al-Anon meetings for families of alcoholics held every Friday. For more info call 335-3146 or 335-9787.

DIDSBURY

BRIDGE CLUB

Mountain View Bridge Club meets every Wednesday from 7-10 p.m. at the Masonic Star Hall, 2037-21 Avenue, Didsbury. All bridge players welcome! For more info: 232-6894 or 638-2757.

SUPPORT GROUP

ADD/ADHD Support Group. For parents and families dealing with attention deficit disorder. For more info call Sheree 335-8612.

GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS

Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. in education room (lower level) at Didsbury Hospital.

LONE PINE

T.O.P.S

Take Off Pounds Sensibly meets every Friday at 9 a.m. at Lone Pine Hall. For information call Doreen at 335-4514.

OLDS

MEETING

Adoption Support Group of Olds and area meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month. For more information contact Susan at 335-8540.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Join the Mountain View Presenters (MVP) Toastmasters Club in Olds. Meetings every Tuesday at Olds College, Room 108, at 7 p.m. starting September 9. For further info, call Judy Dahl at 556-7119 or Malissa at 556-8520.

SUPPORT GROUP

Fibromyalgia Support Group 4th Thursday of every month, 7 p.m. at the Deer Meadow School, Olds. Contact Mel Terpstra 335-3527 for info.

A.D.D SUPPORT

Support group for adults and children with A.D.D. or learning disabilities. Meet last Thurs. of each month at Deer Meadows. Call Susan 335-3174 or Sam 556-7614.

SUNDRE

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Wednesdays, 8-9 p.m. in the basement of the Anglican Church. Ron 638-2736.

ALA TEEN

Aia Teen, Sundre United Church Basement, Wednesday 7:00 p.m. More info 638-3277.

AL-ANON

Al-Anon, Wednesdays. For more information call 638-3277 or 335-9787.

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